



## How Can I Become a Leader who Influences Culture for Christ?

*"I know it's time to do something. I haven't figured it all out yet about God, but I do know that regardless of my weaknesses, God wants me to be a voice of truth to those around me. Most people wouldn't call me a born leader, but I know that I have something to say. I'm not really sure how to get people to listen to me. How can I be a leader who influences my culture for Jesus Christ?"*

There are some who are leaders that have been recognized by others and hold leadership positions, be it in government, community or at the work place. Then there are the rest of us who don't want to be president or an elected official, but want to move into action when God encourages us to make a difference. How can we do that?

Christ was a radical leader who influenced the world unlike anyone who had gone before or after Him. He was a servant-leader, who showed all of humanity that the most effective way to impact others happens when one is willing to sacrifice for those whom they are leading. He washed the feet of those who followed Him, He put the needs of others before His, He inconvenienced Himself to make sure we understood that the first would be last, and the last would be first (Matthew 19:30). Do you want to influence culture for Christ? Lead like He did.

We can become leaders who influence our culture for Christ when we live with servant hearts and model our lives after His. We have to live humbly and be willing to be taught, while not backing down when truth is in question. We must live with honor and credibility, being accountable for our actions and living transparent lives. The most inspiring leaders are those who are able to persevere through difficult times and stand up for their beliefs. If we can live willing to face adversity for the sake of Jesus Christ, we will encourage others to do so, as well.

A Godly leader is not demanding or coercive, but rather has the skill of getting people to willingly work with him or her because of their personal influence. James Hunter, author of *The Servant* says, "Authority cannot be bought and sold, given and taken away. Authority is about who you are as a person, your character, and the influence you've built with people." There are many kinds of leaders, but a godly, effective leader must be humble, a good listener and a learner who is not afraid to ask questions and seek wise counsel. Above all, each person of influence must personally commit to excellence and to the goal that God has set before him.

So, what does this look like in your world, today? It starts with learning the Truth and living out a Christian worldview, while encouraging others to do the same. It continues when we speak boldly about the truth that God has told us about in His Word, no matter what the costs. What is God calling you to do? Begin a Bible study, stand up for Christ in class or at the workplace, take notice of people's needs and meet them with Christ-like affection? What ever you do, do it well, and do it to the glory of God!