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**Wednesdays// 7:00 pm**

**Maximizing Your  
Influence:  
Session One  
The Anatomy of  
Spiritual Influence**

## Session One

### The Anatomy of Spiritual Influence

**2 Cor. 5:11-21 (NLT):** It is because we know this solemn fear of the Lord that we work so hard to persuade others. God knows we are sincere, and I hope you know this, too. <sup>12</sup> Are we trying to pat ourselves on the back again? No, we are giving you a reason to be proud of us, so you can answer those who brag about having a spectacular ministry rather than having a sincere heart before God. <sup>13</sup> If it seems that we are crazy, it is to bring glory to God. And if we are in our right minds, it is for your benefit. <sup>14</sup> Whatever we do, it is because Christ's love controls us. Since we believe that Christ died for everyone, we also believe that we have all died to the old life we used to live. <sup>15</sup> He died for everyone so that those who receive his new life will no longer live to please themselves. Instead, they will live to please Christ, who died and was raised for them.

<sup>16</sup> So we have stopped evaluating others by what the world thinks about them. Once I mistakenly thought of Christ that way, as though he were merely a human being. How differently I think about him now! <sup>17</sup> What this means is that those who become Christians become new persons. They are not the same anymore, for the old life is gone. A new life has begun!

<sup>18</sup> All this newness of life is from God, who brought us back to himself through what Christ did. And God has given us the task of reconciling people to him. <sup>19</sup> For God was in Christ, reconciling the world to himself, no longer counting people's sins against them. This is the wonderful message he has given us to tell others. <sup>20</sup> We are Christ's ambassadors, and God is using us to speak to you. We urge you, as though Christ himself were here pleading with you, "Be reconciled to God!" <sup>21</sup> For God made Christ, who never sinned, to be the

offering for our sin, so that we could be made right with God through Christ.

### Small Group Interaction:

1. Have you ever had a moment when God opened your eyes to see a person (or group of people) with a fresh, new perspective? If so, share about your experience.
2. What are some things (attitudes, actions, motives) that can cloud our vision and keep us from seeing people the way God does?
3. Once we are reconciled to the Father through faith in Christ, we are called to be Christ's ambassadors; we are given a ministry of reconciliation. If we are going to live a normal day as an ambassador of Christ, how might this impact our words, actions, and attitudes?
4. Sometimes Christians try to "force" people to get saved. What advice would you give to someone who tries to push people into a salvation experience?