



Becoming God Magnets – 2

Fragrance, Not Stench – a Christian’s Active Power to Influence

Message by Andrew Kulasingham, 3rd February, 2019

This is the second of a three-part series with the theme “Becoming God Magnets”.

I want to focus on these three areas:

- Last message we looked at a Christian’s sphere of influence – your “magnetic field”.
- This week we will look at a Christian’s active power to influence – your “pulling power”.
- Next week we will look at a Christian’s sustaining influence – your sustained ability to “remain magnetic”.

As I said in the first message of the series, I’m doing a little soul-searching and am inviting you to do the same.

- How much of an impact does our relationship with Christ have on the people around us?
- How active and effective are we in drawing people to Christ?
- How consistent are we in our relationship with Christ, to stay effective as a change-agent?

Jesus was a magnet, the disciples were magnets, the early church was a magnet. Let us let God shape us into God magnets.

Transformed lives producing transformational encounters

This morning I want to look at our effectiveness in drawing people to Christ.

Paul was a magnet, even in prison.

Philippians 1:12-14 **I want you to know, brothers, that what has happened to me has really served to advance the gospel, ¹³ so that it has become known throughout the whole imperial guard and to all the rest that my imprisonment is for Christ. ¹⁴ And most of the brothers, having become confident in the Lord by my imprisonment, are much more bold to speak the word without fear.**

The Christians in Rome had a very infectious faith that had a global effect.

Romans 1:8 **First, I thank my God through Jesus Christ for all of you, because your faith is proclaimed in all the world.**

The Bible tells us that we are to be people who draw others to Christ. My question to all of us today is – Do we draw people to Christ or do we repel them away from Christ? Are we a fragrance or are we a stench?

We are called to be the fragrance of Christ.

2 Corinthians 14-16 Now thanks be to God, who always leads us in triumph in Christ, and through us diffuses the fragrance of His knowledge in every place. ¹⁵ For we are to God the fragrance of Christ among those who are being saved and among those who are perishing. ¹⁶ To the one we are the aroma of death leading to death, and to the other the aroma of life leading to life.

A distinguishable aroma

- Aroma of life – The lives we live in Christ become a source of strength, encouragement and life to those on their faith journey.
- Aroma of death – To some, this distinct aroma is offensive and they will choose to reject the gospel. We must, however, be extra vigilant to ensure they are reacting to the fragrance of Christ and not the stench of our humanity.

Three thoughts on how to ensure we are the “fragrance of Christ”

1. Reposition ... “made myself a servant to all”

1 Corinthians 9:19-23 For though I am free from all, I have made myself a servant to all, that I might win more of them. ²⁰ To the Jews I became as a Jew, in order to win Jews. To those under the law I became as one under the law (though not being myself under the law) that I might win those under the law.

²¹ To those outside the law I became as one outside the law (not being outside the law of God but under the law of Christ) that I might win those outside the law. ²² To the weak I became weak, that I might win the weak. I have become all things to all people that by all means I might save some.

²³ I do it all for the sake of the gospel, that I may share with them in its blessings.

Paul was a great soul-winner because he constantly repositioned himself. He never saw himself better than the other, nor did he portray himself as better than the others.

Reposition ourselves. We are not better than others. Let’s make ourselves servants of all.

2. Rephrase – “...speak what is good and right.”

Matthew 12:33-37 "Either make the tree good and its fruit good, or make the tree bad and its fruit bad, for the tree is known by its fruit. ³⁴ You brood of vipers! How can you speak good, when you are evil? For out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaks. ³⁵ The good person out of his good treasure brings forth good, and the evil person out of his evil treasure brings forth evil. ³⁶ I tell you, on the day of judgment people will give account for every careless word they speak, ³⁷ for by your words you will be justified, and by your words you will be condemned."

Our words either produce good things or evil things. One comes from the treasury of a good heart, the other from an evil heart.

Rephrase our words to produce good things. Let us speak what is good and right.

3. Repent Keep your conscience clear.

1 Peter 3:15-16 (NLT) **Instead, you must worship Christ as Lord of your life. And if you are asked about your Christian hope, always be ready to explain it. ¹⁶ But you must do this in a gentle and respectful way. Keep your conscience clear. Then, if people speak evil against you, they will be ashamed when they see what a good life you live because you belong to Christ.**

Ensure a routine of daily maintenance of your soul.

Repent. Stay fixed under the lordship of Christ. Keep a clear conscience. Live a good life.

Let us be a fragrance and not a stench.
