

sermonnotes

Toxic Influences



Influence: The power to effect the character, development, or behavior of a person or situation.

Two Kinds of Influence:

- **Life-Giving:** A positive influence that adds value to a person and helps build character.
- **Life-Altering:** A toxic influence that negatively effects a person and contaminates character.

Toxic: Anything infected with poisonous material and is capable of causing sickness or death.

Toxic Influences and the Focus of Infection

“Like a muddied spring or a polluted well are the righteous who give way to the wicked.”—Proverbs 25:26

We are not without a choice as to what will be allowed to influence our character and behavior. To make the right choices we must be aware of the source of the toxic influences competing for our attention.

Three Sources of Toxic Influence

_____ Influences – Toxic _____

- Contamination breeds _____!

- The company we keep has the power to add value or infect our character and behavior.

_____ Influences – Toxic _____

- Just because everyone else does it, doesn't make it _____!
- Oftentimes, without recognizing it we become infected because of the outside influences of a toxic culture.

_____ Influences – Toxic _____

- Infected conversations lead to septic _____!
- We must refrain from engaging in conversations that are rooted in the pain of anger, unforgiveness and/or discontentment. They have the ability to alter our personal perceptions.

“Everything that we allow into our minds, hearts, and lives – everything that we spend our time and money on has an impact on how we grow, or don't grow, spiritually.”—Craig Groeschel

What have you allowed to influence your character and behavior? How muddy is your water?

Recommended Resources:
Soul Detox by Craig Groeschel

Answers: Inside; Company; contamination; Outside; Culture; right; Fireside; Conversation; observations



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