

I have repeated often that “what a man allows happens.” The choices we make will affect everyone and everything around us. A powerful woman is extremely influential. I have met some fabulously influential women. I have only met a few good men. I have met several from both sexes that missed the mark. They have hurt and miss-guided many people in their lives. Each of them thought they were important and influential.

I want men to find their masculine side and let it blossom into the man they need to be. To be influential is to be many things. To just be strong isn't good enough. Being powerful or rich just doesn't make you influential. Sure status can give you an edge, but it doesn't make you a great leader. To be influential is to impact people in a positive way. They would say “I want to be that guy.” Are you that guy?

I knew a NHL hockey player that was the best player on the team. He could score, fight, and address the media. He was the perfect Captain. Within all his talent and desire was a missing component: influence. How often do the teams vote in a captain because he is the best player? He might make the most money. The other day my wife and I were thinking of all the captains in hockey. The captain is not usually the best player but the most inspiring and influential guy in the room should be.

There was a supervisor at work that was very beautiful. I can still remember the day she entered the workplace. Every male and female head turned. Wow this office is about to improve we all thought. What we got was the demon from hell and beyond. She was arrogant, driven, stubborn, outspoken, brash, and several other adjectives I can't spell. I guess I could have used the bitch word if I could. She dressed well, knew the job well, and was pretty and well spoken, but she was missing one component: influence.

Within these two vastly different people were all the makings of leadership except for the lack of influence. Men are so good at being a lot of things, yet these days we lack influence. The society as a whole lacks respect for the modern man. There are programs and organizations built to help every social need out there, yet the male corner is empty. Where are the social programs to help men? I'm sure there are some but in reality the mountain of support is massive against the male person.

I tried to get funding for school and they said "Sorry Mr. Green you make too much." Mr. Green if you were disabled maybe, but quite frankly you're a normal white male, you can fend for yourself, we have nothing for you to apply for. This is not a pity party but stark reality. Men are not considered important enough to make sure we get a head in life. Society assumes that we just will because we always have. The problem these days is that without influence or social tags you are screwed as a man.

A male has a hard time finding a job. In the quotas for the socially acceptable, it rules out most of the male population. In a union bylaw there is a rule that 3 out of ten staff must be a minority or female. There is no mention of the male. They just assume were running the show. Where is all this going Pat? Men cannot be influential because we are barred from many positions. The thought of men running anything these days is becoming far more repulsive and unacceptable.

Think I'm wrong? Why is the make-up of the universities today overwhelmingly female? In the UK, three universities pooled found that 55% of the gender was female. It seems not very alarming but that is a drop of 22,000 men in the last year. There was a study recently in Alberta Canada that was concerned with peer preferences. Female teachers gave significantly higher

grades to female students. That might be deserved, yet all the tuition money is been awarded to females based on marks. Men simply cannot afford to go to university anymore.

This is not a judgment; it's just the way things have gone. I don't really believe that women started a war with men. It's just that when men dominated society in the past the rest of the population was left out. Now that women have avenues and rights the pendulum has violently swung the other way. I don't believe it was on purpose, but that's just what happened. So, today our boys are left in the dust. We men don't have the same advantages as our for-fathers. The masculine man is not finding it easy to survive in this world.

Is it now time to take back the universities? Is it time to reject the female population in favor of the traditional male? You see that's what people would assume. It's either one way or the other. However, I disagree. Men of chivalry, honor, valor, and character can change the sins of the past. Men would be stupid and foolish to return to male dominant ways. Just because we can doesn't mean we should. It's time that men speak out about equality just like the founding fathers in America did.

Men can make a community where all can flourish. Is it because only men can restore the community? You still have it all wrong. Men have the ability to help turn the tide just like women did years ago. It's time to reset the scales again and give all people of all types' equal value. Men can be placed in roles they once held with dignity and honor. The streets can be safe to walk in. Men can hug their children in public and not be looked upon as perverts. It talks like utopia but it looks like a world that could be. It was like that many years ago when men held influence.

If men can kill then men can equally protect. If men can rape then men can equally honor and protect. If many male politicians are liars then they can begin to speak honestly. A husband

can respect a wife rather than beat her. It's about restoring men to being understandable and justified. Not in their eyes but the public's eyes. It's time that we make better choices for the community. The Bible says we can't remove the strong man from his house without first binding him up. The reference means that we need strong men to make a community safe. I feel the community is unsafe because the masculine man has been frowned upon, shackled, and silenced.

Like I said at the beginning of this chapter it's about influence. Men of influence are not supposed to be only the controlling, powerful, or good looking. They are men that lead by character. Influence is so much more than being tall or rich. Maybe a man that can't have his hand held in society is exactly what we need. We are born men so we have a responsibility to get at it. We protect because we're men. We lead honorably because we are men. We make sure our streets are safe because we are men. These days life is not safe because men are nowhere to be found.

Were too busy trying to be something where not. It's all about the focus. I'd like to tell the story of the union of Canadian Postal workers. Up till the mid 1980's they were strong and powerful. I can remember management fearing them. In one strike in particular another fellow worker and I held up a line of Mack trucks waiting to drop off and pick up mail. Those big powerful machines were held back by two little postal workers. We were determined that they would not cross the line. That was in the past.

These days we still have the same union, yet they are only in name. The power and intimidation has long since disappeared within 20 years. What happened? They lost their influence over Canada Post management. How did it happen? Well they lost their focus. The union began to fight for single moms, gay rights, and other social agendas. These are all noble causes. Nobody in a work place should be treated different because of their social status. The

problem was that the union forgot about safety, conditions, and work load. Every four years for twenty years we lost more and more ground. The focus for the union was not on the work, but the social agenda.

In the last strike the union signed off on all the social issues before the strike. For management it was checkmate. The Canadian government then proceeded to parade around the country telling the people how socially responsible Canada Post is. Behind the scenes they cut jobs, increased workloads, and set a plan in motion to wipe out half the workers. The union is now a mere memory rather than an influence.

I'd like to give one more example if I may: it's the story of the organized church in the 20th century. Up till the end of the 19th century the church was very influential in the world, countries, and communities. The basics of the Ten Commandments were found in our schools, courts, and homes. Life was different then. Men and women marched to end segregation of African Americans. The stood beside equal rights of women. They fought to end child labour and so much more. The church burst like never before. A holiness movement began creating evangelical and charismatic churches all over the world.

Hospices sprang up and the Salvation Army flourished. There were several revivals throughout North America. People were drawn to the church. Why? It's simple really: they looked like they cared by their actions. The influence of the church was not because they jammed the Bible down people's throats. It was the message they gave through their actions. The church fought, risked, and forged ahead for the community.

Today the church is quite similar to the union of postal workers in my view. They now are weak, powerless, and uninfluential in the community. There is a new wave of rejection from within the community. Why? The church took the bait of popularity and intolerance at the same

time. They grew in numbers and grew in wealth. Churches chose “mega” in place of community. They created programs and became an institution. They hired CEO type pastors and large management groups. They meet in conferences and pass resolutions just like big corporations.

The intolerance side was the last straw. It came in two very different ways. One side saw the church reject sinners (which is everyone). They shunned people by color, sexual orientation, and gender. Wait a minute Patrick isn't Christians supposed to reject sin? That was the kicker just like the unions social agenda. The church lost its influence because it refused to look like the community. They lost touch with ordinary people and a wall developed. The focus was all wrong.

You see Jesus went to the dirty places to be near the people. That was him. The modern church rejects that. Oh sure they send in church plants to restore communities. They send missionaries to reach people in other countries. The problem is that it's at arm's length. They “send” instead of residing there themselves. Jesus sends us; not us sending Jesus. The church can fight me on this but the proof is in the pudding. Where is your influence anymore church?

Patrick it's supposed to be like this in the end times. Really? When were we supposed to stop going to the people? At one time A B Simpson (founder of the Christian and Missionary Alliance) decided that if we sent people to tell the gospel to everyone Jesus might return quicker. The problem is that they stopped the mission as the church. What they were created for is not what is happening outside the church. Christians were supposed to go not send.

Today's church is complicated. Missions are based on money and safety. Churches reside in rich areas far more than poor places. The Intolerance for sinners they once held has changed into social justice. We now support sinners rather than reject them. Isn't that a good thing? My

argument is that the church survived and thrived in the past because you knew it was a solid foundation. The church has lost its identity because it now looks like the world.

Influence is by conviction of who we are. People respect that. The church hated sinners in the past. Today they still hate sinners but they welcome sin in a desperate attempt to gain people. If we accept and welcome the practices the world loves they will love us back right? That is not the gospel. The gospel is a message of relief from sin rather than accommodation. Church was designed to be a place where love accepts people as sinners. Sin should still be sin, not the norm.

Why did I go through these two examples? It's to illustrate that influence is founded by doing and being rather than causing over bearing burdens. A soft manager will have soft workers. A hard manager will be very lonely at the top. An influential leader has the admiration and respect because he models what he wants in his workers. Back to Jesus, he did what we should be doing: living life, loving God, and caring for people. The Bible says there is no condemnation in Christ Jesus. Duh, why do we continue to treat people the wrong way?

The reason I felt I needed to rant on a union and the church is because it screams at me about what's wrong with men these days. Two organizations designed to be good, helpful, and influential have been reduced to dust. They chose the easy path to pleasing people and look good in the public eye. The public never asked for that type of union or church. They needed the warrior to fight our battles.

As men that is what has happened to us too. We were expected to be the security in the community. Instead for years we have raped, killed, and forced people to live less than stellar lives. We put shackles on Native Americans, African Americans, and women. Men of valor are men that do great feats rather than rule with an iron fist. Men have lost influence because we stopped being men.

Again I must go back to the Bible. It talks about people being given the rulers they deserve. It talks about being good business owners and fathers. The Bible says God will appoint rulers we need to respect because he put them there. Is it possible that the politicians we have in power are proportional to our lack of influence in the community as men? Has our fall from masculinity ruined the community?

I for one believe it has. God had given us leaders that grind against masculinity. We are asked to tolerate, accept, and endorse all the laws they pass. The definition of a leader now has changed. To lead in our culture is to be soft caring people. For a man to lead now, he must fight for social justice. Again these are good fights, but men were made to fight a different fight.

Men are far too soft now. We are the generation of entitlements. It's not our fault anymore: we are encouraged to be the victim. The problem comes back to my previous chapter 5. Men are not made to be soft or victims. Men need to pick a good fight now and then, and stand up for what they believe. How can we be influential when we go with the flow all the time? If things always change then what defines a man?

Is a man defined by the sign of the times? One of the attributes of the Bible that ticks people off the most is it's inflexible nature. It's meaning never changes. We are trying hard to redefine man: to change his role, nature, and purpose. My goodness it's honorable to be a stay at home dad. It's not the end of the world but it is the end of the masculine male. The reason I am crying foul here is because that was me in the beginning of this book. I was reduced to being exactly what the community and my wife hated in me. Society might desire the perfect man-wife but the people in that society don't want him/her. Where are the masculine influences these days?

Is it Brad Pitt photographed repeatedly with his kids? When is the last time you saw Brad pictured doing something masculine? We sure see the pics of his wife Angelina being masculine. On TV the other day a woman was depicted driving the work truck. In another instance the boss is quite often a female. I am sounding an alarm because the masculine male is going down the drain fast. I have told you before that we need the influential male in our culture. We are screwed without him.

There was a time in the community when the woman stayed at home. Those times are gone. Men and women in the community both need to work just to survive. I suppose men could stay at home and take care of the kids. It seems so harmless doesn't it? It's just my opinion but men make our community safe, not women. A male presence in the community deters crime and corruption. The masculine male wants to fight against the things that threaten us.

When we take him away the forces of evil will grow. Is it safe to walk the streets and leave doors unlocked these days? Foolish people we have become. We think that removing the man means nothing, yet all around us something is wrong. Yes, there are bad men. Many a good man has kicked their donkey in the past. The female cop and tomb raider that go around kicking men's asses in movies just don't exist, yet we think they do.

Many a great woman in history has led a cause. We have a few like Joan of Arc and we think these women grow on trees. President Obama was depicted in one article as passive with foreign policy. Whether that is true or not time and history will tell. The legacy of this president might be that he did nothing but shy away from the fight. I fear (as many others do) that the fight will become bold and come after us. It already has with 9/11.

We love movies like Brave heart, Lord of the Rings, and Die Hard because of the fight, not the dialogue. The leaders of nations are noted by their fight more than their policies. Think of

Washington, Lincoln, Bush, Regan, Kennedy, Roosevelt, and probably many others. Some consider them great while others believe they were terrible. On either side is the debate over the fights they waged more than the beliefs they held. America was forged on the fight. Even when they tried to abstain from the battle in the world wars and the Middle East: the fight was brought to them. A bound strong man is no man at all, his house will fall.

I'm sure there are different types of men. Some are successful while others are like me: the postman. One guy becomes the leader of the country while another drives a truck. The problem is that being influential does not mean you become famous. Being the leader does not guarantee you influence people. Sure it does Patrick because that's how they got there. Then why do leaders fall? I think it's because they lack influence. Instead they ride the wave of the eye. What we see is all there is. There is no depth within the person. In time that luster wears off.

To this day John F Kennedy still has sway. We wish we had leaders like him. Was he great? I'm not sure but his influence on us is still there. It's the same way Lincoln's has. It was by the way they were in there influence. In both cases someone got jealous. Someone decided to bring them down. To snuff out the influence they had. It's the same with Jesus. One man shared one truth that God is with us. In 2000 years the influence of Jesus can still be felt.

Here is it in a nut shell for me. To be a man is to be masculine: to be who we were meant to be. Men were created to serve and protect just like the police do. Men are forged within the family. We are molded by fathers and mothers. Men are the sum of their experiences. We grow as we are active in learning. We like to be hands on.

In the following chapters I want to bring us into the world of creating the masculine man. We are a complicated and simple creature. Men are made of many different parts. Each part shapes us into the men we should be. Strangely enough it's time to spend a moment with

ourselves. I realized one day that I was not influential in my marriage and family life. I was dust in the wind. They had nothing solid to grab on to within me. I was not influential to my family and even to me. I didn't know me so how could I promote me, and that was a serious problem. Hard to influential when you don't understand who you are and what's your purpose. To know someone is to spend time with them. It's time to date yourself.