



The Eight Spheres of Influence

Genesis 1 (Subdue the Earth), Matthew 28:18-20; Mark 16:15

In every society there are eight major areas that affect everyone. God uniquely designed and called each believer to be an influencer on at least one of these eight spheres. As we follow Jesus and live out our faith, the Kingdom of God will advance in our nations, and we will understand how to be influencers in specific spheres.

Understanding the eight spheres concept is an important tool for Christians to carry out the Great Commission. (Matthew 28:19-20) The concept is being used by Christians all over the world and helps believers understand our role in society.

What are the eight spheres?

There are **eight major areas** that influence every person, community and society on earth. To help us picture these eight major areas, they are presented as “seven mountains.”

- Business
- Education
- Arts & Entertainment
- Law & Government
- Science and Technology
- Family
- Media & Communications
- Religion

Each of these areas of society is controlled in some way. Whoever has influence over each of these eight spheres has either a righteous or unrighteous effect on the nation.

Why is the marketplace important to the eight spheres?

What we refer to as “the marketplace” involves all of the spheres of society. All of the daily activities of

business, education, entertainment, government, family, media, and religion take place in the marketplace. The influence of each of the eight spheres is displayed in the marketplace.

For example, suppose the “government and Law” is influenced by leaders who believe in honesty and integrity and who want to stop corruption. They will use their influence to pass and enforce laws that will stop fraud, corruption, and bribery. This will lead to a better business environment that will generate more wealth and well-being in a country.

The Importance of Influencing the eight spheres of society

God has deposited gifts and talents into each person. These gifts and talents help indicate what vocation(s) each person should have and which “sphere” that person should influence.

For example, an individual who has the ability to work with numbers and is very logical may be an accountant or bookkeeper for a company. Through his or her honest and hard work, he or she would have a positive influence on the business sphere.

Followers of Christ must have a positive influence over our society in order to make a difference in society. We must also understand that lasting change is only acquired with a multi- generational mindset. In order to truly have influence over our sphere, we must think further than our own lifespans!

As God’s people have influence on the strategic sphere of society, there will be positive marketplace transformation that will have an incredible impact throughout the nations.

The Transformed Eight Spheres: A Picture of the Goal

1. **Business:** Economic systems that allow business and commerce to thrive and expand. Businesses that use the resources of a nation to bring wealth and a higher standard of living to all people.
2. **Education:** Education rooted in the principles of God’s Word that truly trains and prepares students to have integrity, to be successful, and to give hope for the future.
3. **Entertainment:** Entertainment that is wholesome and allows people to experience a full range of excitement, fun, and other God given emotions.
4. **Government & Law:** Governments with just laws that are carried out by officials with integrity and honesty who take care of and provide for citizens.
5. **Family:** Strong families led by married couples (one man, one woman) who love each other for life. Parents that love and nurture their children and raise their children to love God.
6. **Media:** Media that is based on investigating and communicating the truth completely and accurately.

7. **Religion:** Churches that realize their role in 1) worshiping and experiencing God in church meetings and 2) equipping their members to worship God and serve in all parts of society.
8. **Science and Technology:** Christians solving society problems by creating new medicine for those sick and hurting, inventing new technology that helps the Gospel reach others can ignite transformation.

The Spiritual Battle

It is also clear that the battle for influence is not just on earth but is also being fought in the heavenly realm. (Ephesians 6:12)

The eight spheres are where either the Kingdom of God or the Kingdom of Satan have an influence. When God's people are in high places of influence, an increase of God's supernatural Spirit that transforms hearts is released. This leads to a transformed region that reflects Heaven.

However, the opposite is true if people under the control of Satan are strategically influencing the mountains. As ungodly individuals are in control, demonic forces are given access through sin and perversion into a society. Satan's kingdom of death, theft, and destruction is established, and society degenerates farther away from God and the blessing of His presence. (John 10:10)

For example, when dark forces are strongly influencing the entertainment, the television shows and movies are full of unhealthy content with sexual perversion, graphic violence and anti-Christian bias.

When Satan's kingdom gains deeper hold on people and over a geographic region, the influences are called "strongholds." Strongholds are established when there is a lack of Christian influence and activity in an area over generations. (2 Corinthians 10:4)

Dominion

From the very beginning, God has called His people to reign and rule under His authority. This was the mandate given to Adam in Genesis and continues today. As Christ-followers, we have the mandate to spread the influence of His Kingdom. The word used to describe this in the Bible is "dominion." (Genesis 1:28)

We are commanded to take dominion over each sphere of society by understanding our calling and knowing what mountains we are to operate on. We then express God's life and influence our spheres of influence. As we follow Jesus in all parts of our lives, His influence will become great in our societies.

Challenges to Traditional Thinking

The idea of God's kingdom being established on earth through believers who influence the society may challenge some traditional thinking. Let's explore some of the areas where our thinking must be adjusted:

Traditional View #1:

"Church meetings are the only place where God intervenes and works in the lives of people. God doesn't really move in the marketplace."

Challenge: The Church as a body of believers is called to influence every mountain. God is not limited to a church service. He is operating 7 days a week, 24 hours a day and so must we. Some people may spend a few hours a week in a church meeting, but almost *everyone* spends more than forty hours a week in the marketplace!

God goes with us and wants to work through us as we move in the marketplace. We need to encourage and pray for people in the marketplace, not just at church. We need to have expectations that God will do supernatural things and transform the lives of those we contact every day.

There is a dangerous lie that many in the body of Christ believe. The lie is that we have a "spiritual part" of our lives that we use when we are in church and a "secular part" of our lives that we use when we are at work and play. For the Christian there is no division between sacred and secular. Jesus Christ is Lord of all life, not just certain parts.

We will be most fulfilled, satisfied and joyful when we realize that all things are spiritual. When we allow God to move and work in all areas of our life, we will be free from the inner conflict of attempting to live both a "spiritual life" and a "secular life."

Traditional View #2:

"The pastor is the one who is to serve, teach, and feed the body and local community. Those people who are not full-time church staff are called only to only give money and support those who are called to preach and serve."

Challenge:

The Bible says that every follower of Christ is a priest. (1 Peter 2:9)

A great number of believers do not see themselves as priests, pastors, or ministers in their particular sphere of society. Many are taught to be passive until Jesus returns. However, every individual is uniquely designed for the advancement of God's kingdom and has a role to play in the marketplace. Those who are called into "full-time ministry" as pastors, teachers or evangelists are to equip the Body of believers for ministry on each

“mountain.”

It is easy to see the importance of the marketplace in Jesus’ own life. The majority of His miracles happened in the marketplace, not in the church. Most of His parables commented on the marketplace. The Bible records over 120 encounters that Jesus had with people. Only about 10 of these were in the temple or synagogue and the rest were in the marketplace. Thirty-nine out of forty supernatural manifestations recorded in the book of Acts happened in the marketplace. God will do unusual and amazing things when we welcome Him into our lives and into the marketplace.

Conclusion:

1. Pray and ask God to reveal Himself to you. What sphere of society(s) has He placed you to be a priest and an influencer?
2. Examine your own life. Have you given God control in all areas? Are you living a life free of division between sacred and secular?
3. Dedicate yourself to following Christ. Ask Him how He wants to bring transformation to your nation. Ask Him how He wants to use you each day.