

The Effect of You

How you ever stopped to think about the effect you have on others? Think about all the people that you have met so far today... now think about all the people that you have come in contact with throughout your life.... That's a lot of people!

Positive or negative, whether we intend to or not, our being has an effect on all those we meet. You can add to someone's list of misfortunes, confirm that most only care about themselves, restore faith in mankind, turn someone's day around (for the better or the worse) and so on and so on...

"... desiring to live, accepting life as a very great gift and a great good, not because of what it gives us, but because of what it enables us to give to others." Thomas Merton [No Man Is An Island].

The effect of you is powerful and has a profound influence on the world. The state of your presence infects the world, whether it's negative or positive, it's up to you. Your attitude, the tone of your voice, your body language and what you say and do all shape the world and how it responds to you.

**"When was the last time someone confused you for Jesus?"
Matthew Kelly [Rediscover Jesus]**

Your ability to love is power indeed. God does not create without purpose, within you He has ingrained all the beauty of creation. You have the power of creation that is longing to be unleashed from your heart. The only obstacle is yourself. You have the free will to ignore the beauty of God within and suppress it, or you can unleash it upon a starving world. The influence and effect of your presence is what you decide it to be. You can be authentic and true even in times of hardship and persecution and nothing but beauty will radiate from your presence. At the same time your indifference to the poor, the marginalized, the forgotten and unwanted only brings about greater indifference and only adds to the turmoil of the world. The effect of you is entirely up to you.

*Lord,
show me the ways of love,
that may live within the boundless existence of love.
Help me to know my effect on the world around me,
teach me to be patient and kind,
compassionate and understanding.
Grant that I may act with the silent boldness of authentic love.
May my effect on others be experienced as the effect of You.*

AMEN

To make a difference is to be truly present to the world.