



## Servant's Corner

March 2012

### How To Influence Your City

By Rich Henderson, Love INC Director

Do you want to influence your city to come to Christ? Of course you do. How do we accomplish this? Let me lay out two options: #1. Churches in town could pool their money to buy ads on busses that read: "Contrary to what you might think, Christians are nice people with a very important message. You should listen to us." #2. We could serve others.

Jesus taught that those who follow Him ought to gain influence through service. *"I am among you as the one who serves"* was the leadership model Jesus left for us to emulate (Luke 22:27b). This model was adopted by the early church. Paul told the Corinthians they should submit to the leadership of Stephanas and his household because, *"they have devoted themselves for ministry to the saints"* (1 Cor. 16:15-16). It makes sense for people to want to follow those who have their best interest in mind and have a track record of diligently serving them.

All of this means that if we Christians want to have more influence in our city, we need to develop a lifestyle of service. This strategy has worked before. The pagan Emperor Julian made this observation about how Christians in the fourth century were gaining influence: *"Atheism (i.e. Christian Faith) has been specially advanced through the loving service rendered to strangers...the godless Galileans (i.e. Christians) care not only for their own poor but for ours as well, while those who belong to us look in vain for the help that we should render them."* That's the Christian way to influence our city to follow Jesus.



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