



CHAPTER SIX

The “Power of One”



So, now you are praying for revival, thinking hard and getting the word out that America was and is a “Christian” nation. But can one person really make a difference in such a “big” country? You probably have heard that one person can make a difference, but maybe you doubt that it could be true of you. My friend Randy Hicks introduced me to the phrase “the power of one.” It refers to the incredible change that can occur when one person submits to God and becomes obedient to God’s plan for his life at that moment. We all know stories about extraordinary men and women who, by sheer magnitude of their gifts or stature, were able to seemingly change the course of history. But, I want to demonstrate how it can happen on a much smaller scale as well.

Recently, I took a Delta flight to Colorado Springs for the taping of a guest appearance on a *Focus on the Family* radio broadcast. The in-flight video feature was a variety of news, entertainment and sports. Included in all of this was a Mariah Carey music video that was incredibly lewd. I was concerned because so many of our young people fly Delta around the country as they lead *TeenPact* classes, and when I got back to Atlanta, I quickly emailed a complaint to Delta via the company's web site.

Before long, a generic response came back apologizing for the "impression" I received, and the letter had a name at the bottom. I wrote again asking this person to personally view the video and confirm that the video, in fact, accurately reflected the values of Delta Air Lines. A few days passed and this time an email came back saying that they had forwarded my comments to their marketing department.

In time, I received another email with the words I had hoped to hear. The letter read, in part,

Again, let me restate that it is always a question of judgment on what is considered acceptable content. The video presented did meet broadcast television editing requirements. Traditionally, we follow and in most cases exceed broadcast television standards

when displaying content on our aircraft. However, with the above stated, we agree that this does not meet Delta's standards and have removed the video in question from display onboard and are reviewing the music video policy with our programming service to ensure that this content is not presented in the future.

I couldn't believe it. Not only did Delta pull the video from all of their airplanes, but they were going to make sure that "this content" was not presented in the future.

So, three emails from my home computer resulted in thousands and thousands of people being spared the polluting influence of Mariah Carey doing inappropriate things in a music video. This seems too easy, doesn't it? Countless times I have challenged a grocery or convenience store manager to remove or cover inappropriate magazines. Once, I even persuaded a tanning salon (no, I was not a customer) to remove a giant poster of a scantily-clad woman from their front window.

You can be a catalyst for this kind of change as well. But you have to exercise courage. Learn to challenge evil and speak up for decency. Ask God for the courage, creativity and influence to make an impact. You never know when He will open the door for you.

Chapter Challenge

1. Identify blatant forms of evil in your community and begin to ask God to overturn them.
2. Write a letter to the editor exposing an evil in your community. Call your community to action.
3. Look for opportunities to speak out, and do it often and effectively.
4. Compile a list of people who have demonstrated the “power of one” and interview them to discover why they do what they do.