

IN THE JETSTREAM



Being “Correct” About Christmas

December 2014

While corporate policies may tell us what we may or may not say in public during the Christmas season, the meaning of Christmas does not vanish. The authenticity of the message speaks for itself. The real facts surrounding the true meaning of Christmas are established in history, and after two millennia the message is still transforming people’s lives in every culture. Is there any other message apart from the story of Christ’s coming into our world that continues to impact people like this does?

The call for silence in certain public places by corporate and political figures should not hinder us from embracing the meaning of the Christmas message in our lives. How we demonstrate its beauty and truth to people is of equal importance as our speaking it. There are parallels in the story of Christmas that encourage us to demonstrate its message by the way we live it, and that applies also to our workplace. Let’s consider.

Christ’s entrance into the world was an act of humility, and so should our lives be characterized. We are told that He humbled himself and became a servant (Philippians 2:5-8). How? Christ stepped down from the glories of heaven to identify with people by taking on humanity. Humility is not a weakness nor is it just a pious, elegant word. Humility means I don’t flaunt my position, nor do I need to prove my strength, or demand my rights. Rather, humility shows I am willing to put them aside to serve someone else. It can be easy for me to put on humility at church, but what does my humility look like to the people around me in the workplace? Genuine humility shows your willingness to identify with your coworkers’ weaknesses and failures. Not that you should condone wrong, but that you identify with them by being patient and ready to show mercy and forgiveness. Don’t allow the severity of another person’s failures to hinder you from humbly identifying with them.

Christ met people right where they were at, in their distressed and lost circumstances.

The message of Christmas also portrays how Jesus Christ came to consider the interest and needs of others (Philippians 2:4-5). Just giving gifts at Christmas does not mean we are truly considering the interest of others. You can give someone a gift without taking real interest in them. The Christmas message is about Christ taking genuine interest in people. How can we do this in the workplace? ... By showing equal or higher consideration in other people’s needs as we do in our own.

The workplace provides plenty of opportunities for us to demonstrate this. I recently heard how there was tension among a group of employees. This was because some employees were walking away from coworkers to take their “legitimate break time” at the most intense time of the workday. Looking out for the interest of others would mean that I am willing to stay and help, as I would want their help in such a hectic time of the day.

Why not consider how you can apply the true and real meaning of Christmas this season, which may be more than just giving a gift once a year? When opportunities arise, we need not fear in sharing the truth that Christ is our Lord and Savior. However, we should not be pushy or belligerent toward those who oppose it. Why? Because the story of Christ’s entrance into the world as a baby and his parents, Mary and Joseph, having to look for a place to give birth tells us that Christ occupies places where He is welcomed and received (John 1:11-12).

“I bring you good news of great joy which is for all the people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord.” (Luke 2:10-11)

Merry Christmas,
The FCAP Staff

Fellowship of Christian Airline Personnel

www.fcap.org

THE FELLOWSHIP OF CHRISTIAN AIRLINE PERSONNEL

History:

The ministry of FCAP began in 1971 and was incorporated in 1973 when 50 people from eight different airlines in the United States and Canada met to consider how God wanted them to serve Christ in and through the airline industry. Since that time, the ministry of FCAP has spread in over 90 areas of the world. We do not have a membership or dues; rather we are a fellowship among Christians in the airline industry worldwide that share a common commitment and focus.



Perspective & Focus:

Most people look at work primarily as a source of income. Some even view it as a curse imposed on them as punishment from God. *The Fellowship of Christian Airline Personnel* believes that God places a high value on work and is deeply interested in our work, our performance on the job and our relationships with our co-workers. We recognize that both our work and the way we relate to people in the workplace are of great importance to God. So it is our mission: *“To represent Christ in the airlines through meaningful relationships and quality work.”*

FCAP’s two-fold purpose encourages people *to know and experience God’s presence with them at work* and *to trust Him for the enabling strength in the responsibilities and challenges of work*. We see authentic ministry in the workplace as a result of our displaying this relationship to our Lord within the sphere of our influence at work, without being coercive or self-serving.

Values:

- We value doing our work wholeheartedly as unto the Lord, knowing we represent Christ by the quality of our performance while on the job (Ephesians 6:6).
- We value intentionally engaging our faith in the workplace by expressing it in both deeds and words (1 Timothy 6:17-19).
- We value influencing the people around us by creatively building relationship with them and looking out for their interest just as we do our own.
- We value connecting the church in the workplace by seeking out other Christians, to mutually show our love for one another and our care for the people God has placed around us (John 13:35).

Making Your Connection:

Like the airline industry is all about making connections, so FCAP is all about Christians making their connection in the workplace in three basic ways:

- Connecting God’s purposes in the details of your work.
- Connecting ministry to God working through you to influence the people and circumstances of work.
- Connecting the church in the workplace in unique and creative ways, in order to extend and strengthen its influence.

- WE OFFER:**
- Training that helps Christians integrate the Christian faith into the everyday details of our work and its challenges.
 - Free publications and weekly thoughts that offer encouragement, gives focus, and provides information.
 - Support and fellowship through local groups, prayer network, training sessions, special events and conferences.



The Fellowship of Christian Airline Personnel

The ministry of FCAP is carried on by everyday ordinary people throughout the airline workplaces of the world who go to work with an extraordinary calling. The FCAP ministry does not focus on specialized people, nor are we a special interest group focusing on certain issues. We do not have a membership nor are we a club with dues. Rather, FCAP is a fellowship of Christians who identify with one another through a common focus and purpose. And we desire to demonstrate how our faith in Jesus Christ can influence the people and circumstances of our workplace. We are blessed to have both airline and non-airline people who encourage and support this ministry.

OVER TWO MILLION AIRLINE EMPLOYEES IN THE WORLD

Your Next Step:

Check on the FCAP website to see if there is a group in your area, or seek out and connect with other Christians at your workplace. Contact us at the international office for further assistance or click on [“Connect With Us”](#) on the website.



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