

Facing Our Differences

August 2017

We live in a world where personal, cultural, religious, and political differences amongst people are being highlighted through the media daily. Most people agree that these differences exist, and that they create problems which set people at odds with one another. While various efforts are being made to address and try to solve these problems, it seems that two predominant models have developed and become the center of attention. I use the word model, because it represents a particular life style or traits that are being presented and reproduced within culture and seen as normative. First there is the model of the “Melting Pot,” and then there is the one of “Polarization.”



The “*Melting Pot Model*” encourages people to have a dialog with one another about their differences in order to understand each other’s ideas and beliefs. Another way this can work is by coordinating people together under a common project that provides them an opportunity to work together. Both ways have the expectation that when people with differences work together at something, their differences will somehow dissolve. It often can, but for a short time. The problem is... people still hold to their ideas and beliefs, and these will usually surface and create new controversy when they are confronted within a given situation.

The “*Polarizing Model*” seeks to present an over exaggerated and extreme contrast between people’s differences. We see this daily on the news...when people strongly disagree with someone else’s views and project the idea that... either you must totally agree with me or you must treat me as an enemy whom you hate. This only accentuates people’s differences and drives them further apart.

The reality is... both models, in one degree or another, are asking people to ignore or deny their differences. This removes people from the opportunity to learn how to be respectful in light of their differences, and how to collaborate in their life at work and in society.

Christians are called to bring their influence among the many diverse ideas and beliefs at the workplace. They should not be threatened by this but see it as an opportunity.

It is important that we understand clearly how God’s ideas and ways are different. However, different does not mean that we come across impersonal or act offensive toward certain people. We can and should have genuine concern for all people, both for those who share and agree with our ideas and beliefs and for those who don’t. And we can and should be engaging with the ones who don’t. Instead of rudely objecting to their beliefs, we should learn to ask genuine and caring questions about their beliefs and why they hold to such. Though some people may feel challenged by what Christians believe and how they conduct themselves differently at times, it will only affirm the image of God that they themselves bare as well. Actually, the Christian faith is the most sound and reasonable of beliefs. It does not pose a threat to the workplace, instead it actually gives work its greatest purpose in the most practical and healthy ways.

In a world where people’s differences cause polarizing effects, *the Gospel of Jesus Christ* is a liberating message. It alone has the ability to break down dividing walls that people have constructed to separate themselves from one another. The message we bring to people does not derive its worth from making the opposition look as bad as possible... instead it offers mercy and forgiveness for all. (PMC)

“For if while we were enemies we were reconciled to God by the death of His Son, much more, now that we are reconciled, shall we be saved by His life.” (Romans 5:10)

By His mercy & grace,
The FCAP Staff

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 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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