

Chain Reaction At The Workplace

October 2016

By definition, a **chain reaction** is a sequence of reactions where a reactive product or by-product causes additional reactions. Chain reactions can happen at chemical plants when certain chemicals accidentally get mixed and create additional reactions, even explosions. But the term “chain reaction” can also describe well some of the problems that take place in the work environment. Typically, something goes wrong, like an aircraft mechanical problem, a computer glitch, or a coworker with a bad attitude... any of which can cause reactions or over-reactions from those affected by them. Before you know it, the atmosphere becomes dense with confusion and accusations. Our job becomes more challenging, as those over us can become frustrated or our coworkers and passengers grow impatient and angry. Have you experienced a chain reaction in your workplace?



In his first Epistle, the Apostle Peter gives us some of God’s practical wisdom on how to live and operate in conditions caused by chain reactions (1 Peter 3:8-11). Because our natural instinct tends toward self-preservation and retaliation, apart from God’s grace, we’re inclined toward entering a chain reaction. It is natural for us to respond to someone’s harsh words with our own harsh words or to make accusations about those who are accusing us. This kind of pattern creates chain reactions among coworkers and supervisors that only multiply and intensify the problem. God’s instructions begin by telling us to break the chain reaction in our response.

First, we are told to *refrain from speaking evil and using deceit*. Talking about people’s faults and wrongs they have done can ignite into a wild fire that quickly spreads rumors about them. Your calling as a Christian is not to speak about or pass on the evil or mistakes of others. Yes, there is a correct way and time to address it and deal with them, but more often than not, we find it easier to become a

link in a chain reaction. But also mentioned here is a warning about using deceit. Deceit is when we say one thing but really mean something else, or when we lead a person to believe something that is not true or partially true. Deceitfulness often reproduces rumors, as people pass on distorted facts. The more gossip spreads, the more confused people become. On the other hand, the truth will always bring clarity and simplifies a matter.

Next we are told to *turn from evil and do good*. Our responsibility here is more than “not doing what others do.” Because evil leaves a negative void in circumstances, we need to fill it, when we can, with goodness. Peter tells us (1 Peter 3:8-9) that we were called to bring a blessing into difficulties. When God blessed us initially, He did so even though we did not deserve it. I believe our realization of this will not be fully appreciated and enjoyed until we learn to extend this kind of blessing and kindness to those who are difficult toward us.

Lastly, we are told to *seek peace and pursue it*. This assumes there are situations that lack peace, and we accept the need to pursue it. It is not making peace at any cost, but it demonstrates that we desire to be part of the solution, not magnifying the problem. We can do this by offering some options toward a solution of a problem, not just complaining about it. It means we take the initiative, as much as it depends on us, to be at peace with our coworkers and the company (Romans 12:17-18). Why not start your own chain reaction? I’ve witnessed on a number of occasions where a person’s right responses began a positive chain reaction that affected the people around them and brought their faith in the Lord to light. (PMC)

“Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.” (Romans 12:21)

Blessings to you,
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 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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