

IN THE

JETSTREAM



Religion + Workplace... Do they Clash?

March 2016

We are being told that we should not mix religion and work. On top of this, there are people who are fighting to pass a religious freedom act, which actually seeks to remove any trace of faith and religion out of the public sector. Does this mean that people who hold to faith or spiritual consciousness should somehow leave it at home when they enter the workplace? Could faith or religion have any benefits for the company, and if so, what would they be?

Here in the US there are laws (Title VII of The Civil Rights Act of 1964) that protect the rights of any employees who hold certain faiths and religious consciousness. Of course, it states that any activity that comes from this should not put undue burden on the employer. So, how can people of faith be an asset to their company? Certainly, this would all depend on what a religious faith believes and teaches about work...something I would encourage you to look into.

However, a person who holds to a faith that teaches them that their work has significance to God, and that they should be respectful, honest, trustworthy, and work diligently, would most likely be beneficial to the company. But realistically, they could also be a threat to employees who resort to being lazy, disrespectful, or even steal time and materials from the company. Company leaders should recognize that people with a kind of faith that encourages its followers to excel in the way they do their job will be motivated to do their work for reasons that exceed the company's incentive. Yes, faith can be beneficial and bring a positive dimension to the workplace!

Now speaking from a Christian point of view, Christians are taught not to separate God from their work life. This connection between the two is inherent in the Christian's faith. Faith at work is not about simply inserting religious activity into the workplace. Christians who believe that work originated and was designed by our Creator bring to the job a bigger view of work than even that of their



company. They will see their work as an assignment to participate with God. They believe what God says...that by doing their job first and foremost wholeheartedly as unto Him, they will serve God by doing their best for the company. This does not conflict with their job but enhances it. Sadly though, there are Christians who view work as an inferior calling, one that makes it trivial and insignificant to God.

The Christian world view teaches that God gave humans the responsibility to be creative and develop things from the resources He has provided. In the opening chapters of the Bible, the first two humans are told by God that He created all things for them to enjoy and to have dominion over. The word "dominion" carries the idea of being responsible and resourceful in utilizing the resources available to them in the world. Humans have done this in some wonderful ways...by creating educational programs, public utilities, governing structures, laws, health resources, and the list goes on. The coordination and maintaining of such efforts is understood by the Christian faith to be a service both to God and humans. Just consider the aviation/airline industry you work in. Within the last century alone it has made colossal advancements to help us in the way we travel.

However, when humans disregard God, they distort His design of things. Work is one of those things that has been distorted, by greed, selfishness, and enslavement of people. Though work has experienced abuses over time, its origin and purposes are clear and have not changed...it is a good thing that was designed and authorized by God. This gives dignity to workers and their work. (PMC)

Whatever you do, do it all for the glory of God!

1 Corinthians 10:31

For God's Glory,
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.



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 (1Timothy 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).

- Training that helps Christians integrate the Christian faith into the everyday details of our work and its challenges.

WE OFFER:

- 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

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.

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.

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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