

IN THE JETSTREAM



Does Faith Relate to Work?

June 2013

There is a lot of talk these days about containing faith in its appropriate place and away from the workplace. Does faith conflict with work? If not, than what difference should it make at work? I can only speak for the Christian faith when answering this question. If you are of another faith, I would encourage you to find out what its beliefs are about work.

Work has been part of the Christian faith since the beginning of time. The Christian faith defines the origin and meaning of work in relation to God. Out of all creatures, humans are said to bear God's image and are given the responsibility to display His image through their work (Genesis 1:26-27). Christians do not believe that work somehow evolved out of necessity for humans to survive. But instead work was designed by God to allow humans to exercise dominion over creation. The fact that humans have made airplanes that fly and transport people is proof that God's world has consistent natural laws which humans have learned to use for the purpose of benefiting humanity. The Biblical view holds work in high regard, so much so that it makes no distinction in importance, whether you work in the church or work in your company job. Both are of equal importance to God because it is His design, reflecting His purpose.

The concept of work during the ancient Greek and Roman civilizations took a turn and became distorted and twisted. The common work of most people was thought to be of little or no value, while the higher pursuits of philosophy, art, and politics were considered the only worthy work. But then on the scene of history came one who claimed to be God and yet worked with his

hands as a carpenter. The culture in that day encouraged slavery and degraded most work and workers, and yet Jesus Christ worked most of his earthly life as a carpenter. When Christ entered his public ministry His Father in heaven expressed how pleased He was with the work Jesus had done with his hands (Mark 1:9-11).

The bedrock truth about the Christian view of work, in general, is that it glorifies God because it renders a service unto Him. So, whether you clean airplanes, fly them, or work in a church setting, all is a service that brings equal glory to the creator of work. Certainly some humans have distorted work to serve their own selfish and evil purposes. Such work cannot have God's approval. But neither does God approve of those who declare or imply that work at the company job is of less importance to Him than the work done in church. Both matter to Him!

The best statement Christians can make about work comes through the way they do their work. The FCAP mission statement summarizes this. Our Mission in FCAP...*Representing Christ in the Airlines...through Meaningful Relationships and Quality Work.*

Though all of us fall short of perfection, Christians should show resemblance and consistency as to how their faith in God influences their work and workplace. When they live out their faith this way, the question about how the Christian faith relates to work and the workplace will be answered. (PMC)

"Whatever you do, do all for the glory of God."
1 Corinthians 10:31

As unto the Lord,
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 relationships with them and looking out for their interests 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 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 “Your Next Step” on the website.



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