

IN THE JETSTREAM



Respect... in the Workplace?

October 2015

Recently I talked with a supervisor about the challenges she was having in keeping harmony among some of her employees. I asked her about some details, and she immediately described how divisions exist among some of the coworkers. As a result, there has been bullying, mobbing and complete lack of any respect. She further explained that the causes of these divisions usually stem from cultural, ideological, and generational differences. As we talked, I couldn't help but see how all this was difficult and draining for her

There is a lot of talk these days about diversity. And while most of us naturally tend to hang around people with whom we are likeminded, the workplace doesn't always afford us this opportunity. The workplace is where a unique mix of people have to get along in a structured environment. They are told that their company's goals and policies should unite them... but more often they do not. Why? The workplace calls for people to personally interact, yet they do not know how to respond because of their differences.

God revealed in his Word two very important and practical truths that will help us in our dealing with people who are different from us and who can be difficult. The first one is directed toward the individual. We are told to "Respect or honor all people" (1 Peter 2:17). Some may think this means keeping quiet or saying as little as possible. Respect is not about my having to give in and consent to other opinions or to what everyone says. Rather, a respectful person knows when to say "no" and also knows how to disagree in a cordial way.

Respect is an interesting concept. It is not something we should demand from people. Rather it should be reciprocal. We earn respect by how we treat each other. Healthy relationships at work, in marriage, or among friends cannot be built without mutual respect. One major component of a healthy and productive work environment is

mutual respect among employees. The idea behind the word respect is our valuing something or someone. I once saw an old beat up wooden piece of furniture at an antique auction sold for thousands of dollars. Its value was established by what people were willing to pay for it. In the same way, we show our respect in the way we value each other.



There is also a parallel truth that God directs toward those who have authority over others that supports respect. People in these positions should not show partiality by giving special privileges to certain people or groups. When management, supervisors, or leads show preferential treatment by making policy that favors a few, or when they overlook one person's failures while at the same time disciplining others for the same violation, they are creating divisions that foster animosity among employees. One important way respect is modeled by leaders is by their striving to be fair to all and partial to none. (Ephesians 6:8-9; James 2:1).

For the Christian, the idea of respecting another person goes to a higher level. The Christian faith teaches that the intrinsic value of all people is based on the fact that he or she is created in the image of God, and that they are the ones for whom Christ died. In regards to personal relationship among people, a distinctive characteristic of a Christian is that he or she has learned to show respect to all, even to those who don't want it nor will return it.

"Then Peter opened his mouth, and said, 'Of a truth I perceive that God is no respecter of persons.'"

Acts 10:34

Respectfully yours,
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.

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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136 Providence Road
Fayetteville, GA 30215
(770) 461-9320
office@fcap.org

www.FCAP.org

OVER TWO MILLION AIRLINE EMPLOYEES IN THE WORLD

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