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IN THE JETSTREAM

A Christ-Like First Impression

by John Borders



You never get a second chance at a first impression. Are you giving a Christ-like impression to those you meet?

We know that first impressions are crucial, especially when meeting a pilot or other crewmember with whom you will be working closely. In those first few moments, we gather information and make quick judgement calls about the people we meet, and others do the same.

Dr. David Wheeler, one of my professors at Liberty University, teaches a three-step method to evangelism: Prayer, Care, Share. Before we even leave home, we can be praying for the Holy Spirit to speak through us in our encounters with others. We see Jesus do this very thing.

Equipped Through Prayer

“In these days He [Jesus] went out to the mountain to pray, and all night He continued in prayer to God. And when day came, He called His disciples and chose from them twelve, whom He named apostles.” Luke 6:12-13 ESV

Before calling His disciples, Jesus prayed all night. We can pray for God to show us opportunities to share the Gospel, to bless our interactions with others, and even for help in knowing what to say. When we pray in this way, it is a reminder that the people we meet are all made in the image of God and our Heavenly Father loves each one of them. God has called us to this mission field; all we need to do is answer the call and God will continue to equip us.

In my airline interview preparation class, we discussed ways to make a good first impression and things to avoid. First impressions are based primarily by appearance, body language, and tone of voice. With this in mind, how can we honor God when meeting others?

For an unbeliever, their impression of someone they know is a Christian will directly affect their view of Jesus Christ and of Christianity. For this reason, it is especially important to present ourselves well. We find this idea reflected in 2 Timothy.

Representing Christ as Ambassadors

“Do your best to present yourself to God as one approved, a worker who has no need to be ashamed, rightly handling the word of truth.” 2 Timothy 2:15 ESV

As God’s workers, we represent Christ as ambassadors to unbelievers. This includes competence and professionalism in our earthly work. By showing ourselves to be respectable individuals, we cultivate a favorable outlook of those committed to the Christian faith. When we make a positive first impression, we open the first door to Gospel conversations.

After work, you might hang up your shirt and be done as an airline employee for the day, but an evangelist is never off duty. This command to rightly handle the word of truth and represent Christ applies to every moment of our lives. We know that God is omniscient and watches us always, but we never fully know who else is paying attention.

Being Christ-like all the time is not easy. In fact, we cannot do it on our own. We must pray continually for God to sanctify us to make us more like Christ. We should invite God into each and every moment of our lives. When we do, we invite Him to imbue our lives with His joy and peace. The outward expression of these blessings to our hearts is the Fruit of the Spirit (Galatians 5:22-23). Verse 25 of this passage says, *“If we live by the Spirit, let us also keep in step with the Spirit”* (ESV), which continues the message of representing God in our daily lives. Other people will notice a life lived in this way, and 1 Peter informs us of how to be ready.

Preparing Ourselves

“But in your hearts honor Christ the Lord as holy, always being prepared to make a defense to anyone who asks you for a reason for the hope that is in you; yet do it with gentleness and respect.” 1 Peter 3:15 ESV

By praying for the people with whom we will interact, walking fruitfully in the Spirit, and being presentable and professional, we best prepare ourselves to represent Christ in a first impression.

This article was written by John Borders. John is currently an undergraduate student and serves as president/leader of the FCAP Student Chapter at Liberty University in Virginia. How exciting it is to see the next generation stepping up to serve the Lord Jesus in the aviation industry.



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SNAPSHOT OF OUR 2026 INTERNATIONAL FCAP CONFERENCE

Nairobi, Kenya ♦ April 7-11

Here are a few photos from the week enjoyed by those who attended. What a gift it is to have the body of Christ come together like this from different cultures, eager to build relationships with other believers working in the aviation industry, pray together, encourage one another in their faith, study the Word together, and enjoy God's beautiful creation in this part of the world. Without your prayers, attendance, and financial support, this opportunity would not have been possible. Thank you! A special thank you to FCAP-Kenya and FCAP-Uganda for their gracious hospitality.



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