



faith life and learning

Devotional – Faith in the Workplace

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What does it mean to have faith in the workplace? One of the common challenges most of our students face (myself included) is trying to balance both work and school work. This can be a very tough thing to undertake, but when I think of faith in the workplace and classroom I think about commitment, as I see commitment as an example of “working for the Lord” (Col. 3:23). Have you noticed people seem to view their jobs differently today than they did 20 or 30 years ago? For the past 25 years, both of my parents have worked at the same job. My mom works at a doctor’s office and my dad works at a paper mill. I would not necessarily describe either of their jobs as easy. My mom commutes an hour every day and my dad’s shift rotates every week so sometimes he works in the mornings and other weeks he works graveyard. Even though their jobs are not easy, they go to work every day without fail. Growing up, I remember them going to work every day regardless of the situation they found themselves in, which sometimes including being sick. I am sure my parents’ story is not all that unique for many people who grew up in their era.

Today, we might not be as cemented to finding the one job we will work at for the next 30 years like our parents and grandparents probably were. We also probably differ in the characteristics of a workplace that are important to us. Where my parents were

looking for stability, I have looked for jobs that I can enjoy as well as that have a good culture and a good amount of paid time off.

Although the things we find important about a job might be different for each of us, the one thing that remains the same for us all is we get to choose the attitude and outlook we bring to the job each and every day. So whether you are in a job you love and are passionate about or are in a job where you are not as happy, Paul’s instructions to the Colossians, “Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord” (Colossians 3:23) can be an encouragement to us as we get to choose to work as though we are working for the Lord.

With that in mind, what does it mean to have “Faith” in the workplace? That is a question I think we all will have to wrestle with at some point. When we

make the decision to follow Jesus it is a decision that has a ripple effect in every area of our lives including the workplace. Every interaction we have should be affected by our faith in Jesus. Jesus himself said the distinguishing mark of a Christian person should be their “love” for one another (John 13:35). If you are looking for a way to put your faith into action in your everyday life today, I encourage you to take these scripture verses and apply them in whatever you find yourself doing today.

***Whatever you do,
work at it with all your heart,
as working for the Lord.***

Colossians 3:23 NIV

***By this everyone will know
that you are my disciples,
if you love one another.***

John 13:35 NIV