

Integrating My Faith into my Work

As business owners and leaders, we often spend considerable time dealing with “work-life balance.” This is a good thing, of course, but I feel like another topic is equally (if not more) important:

Work-faith balance.

Or perhaps more poignantly, we could phrase this as “work-faith **integration.**”

How do we live out our faith in the marketplace?

Is it leaving the Four Spiritual Laws behind as we leave each sales meeting? Is it adding meaningful scripture to our email signatures?

Or is there something else that would make our lives more inviting, more compelling, more... **evangelical?**

I know - for many of us the thought of being “evangelical” at work conjures up all kinds of terrible, alienating stereotypes, but bear with me for a minute:

What if by evangelical, we simply mean: **living lives that compel people to be curious about the work of Christ in us?**

What could that look like for our staff, for our customers, for our peers, if we were to live lives like that?

1 Peter 3:15 says that we should be willing and ready to offer a reason for the hope that lies within us - the hope found in Jesus.

The assumption from the text here is that people would ask, and you would have an answer.

Are people asking?

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For me, this isn't cut-and-dry.

But it is motivated by a desire to a) prioritize spending time with Jesus each and every morning so that b) I can lead myself and others according to his example.

I don't always get it right, but I am always trying.

And my hope is that, by trying, I won't be ashamed of the gospel, but instead will live my life in such a manner as to invite people to be more curious about what makes me tick.

It means that I'm not quiet about my morning routines: coffee, Bible reading, prayer (in that order) - then the gym workouts, the emails, the texts, etc.

It means that I make decisions on staffing, on finances, on vision and direction that are in line with the principles of Jesus.

It means that I make every effort to treat others with the dignity and respect of their position as God's child, just as I am God's child.

It means that I pray for opportunities throughout my day to have meaningful conversations with people, and that my eyes would be open to those opportunities when they present themselves.

In short, it means I make every effort to fill myself with Christ, so that I might show Christ to others - through my actions, through my reactions to challenging situations, through my leadership, and through my interactions.

It means I'm attentive and prepared to give a reason for the hope that lies within, and that when that opportunity presents itself, I can respond in faithful obedience, eagerly awaiting the words "well done, good and faithful servant" from the Father.

Its work and faith, integrated into the wholeness of who I am, what I'm about, and integrated into what drives me.

And that kind of life, in my view, is one that both appeals and evangelizes...

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Reflection Questions:

1. When you think about the phrase “evangelical living,” what comes up for you?
2. What could you change about your routines to be more intentional about spending time with Jesus, and how might that affect your work-life balance?
3. What is the potential cost of not being intentional, daily, about your faith?
4. How might your workday change if your daily quiet time was as much of a discipline as going to the gym or eating breakfast?
5. How might your day be affected if you started with Bible reading and prayer before checking your email?