

Your Job and the Great Commission

Purpose: To motivate you to do your job whole-heartedly and to help develop your vision for how you are helping to fulfill the Great Commission.

Objectives: By the end of this session you will:

1. See how your overall job impacts others in their relationships with Christ.
2. Appreciate the importance of your roles within the body of Christ.
3. Understand attitudes necessary to be effective in your job.

Key Verse: 1 Corinthians 10:31

I. Introduction

(Use an example that shows how a situation or goal is unfulfilled or unmet because one of the specific needs or components is not met. Here is one idea.)

If someone were to ask you what the most important ingredient for a basketball game was, what would you say? *(Pause for answers)* That's right, the ball! The other day some friends and I went to play some basketball on our lunch break, as we often do. We each ran to the locker room, quickly got dressed, and then hurried over to the court. As we each arrived, one by one, we found ourselves standing around talking. No one was shooting baskets. We had a small problem - nobody brought a ball out. We each assumed that someone else was taking care of that detail. Consequently, we didn't get to play as long, because of our neglect.

You see, sometimes the most trivial or minor detail can have a major impact on your goal and the outcome of your endeavors. The same is true with our jobs. We often are faced with routine tasks that can seem mundane and even pointless. But have you ever thought about the eternal significance of some of these tasks? Today we'd like to look a little closer at our particular jobs within the ministry and show how important they really are to the Great Commission.

II. Each Part Vital

Read 1 Corinthians 12:12-25

It is so easy to forget how we all need one another, how we are all part of one another. No part of the body is more important than another. Each part of the body is critical for the proper functioning of the whole. Look again at vv. 15-17. It is so easy to compare our function with others and either come up smelling like a rose or come up smelling like - well, something less than a rose. How comforting to know that "God has placed the members, each one of them, in the body, just as He desired." Every job is important. The eye cannot say to the hand, "I have no need of you"; nor the head to the feet, "I have no need of you." Think with me for a moment, how ineffective the eyes would be if the feet couldn't take them to new places, or if the capillaries

didn't bring them the right amount of blood. There are no unimportant parts to the body. Granted, some are more well-known than others, but "the members of the body which seem to be weaker are necessary."

How does this apply to us? There are no unimportant jobs in fulfilling the Great Commission. Yes, we may not be the mouth who gets to share about all the wonderful conversions we see, nor the feet that get to take the message to new and exotic places. We may not be the eyes that see where God wants the body to go, nor the hands that create ministries and movements. But, we, nevertheless, are vital. We are often as unseen as the heart, but without whose steady pumping of resources to the more visible parts of the body no work could be accomplished. We may be as unnoticed as the digestive system, but without whose ongoing efforts to breakdown food and make it useful, the body would starve. Every part is critical, every part vital. And so is every member of the body of Christ, every job within the organization.

Transition: Since every job is critical, no matter how unnoticed it may be, how should we view our job?

III. My Job and the Great Commission

(This part will need to be adapted if your audience's job is other than full time ministry. Think through how each job enables mankind to prosper and is therefore a service. This service brings well-being to others (who are also God's creatures), open doors for personal ministry and a supportive ministry. See I Thessalonians 3:6-15; I Timothy 3:7 and Titus 2:9-10.)

- A. Think through the various aspects of your job - that report you put together every month, the telephone calls you answer, the computer programs you write, the meetings in which you participate, etc. Is there any value to them? Do they actually affect people coming to Christ? Here is a list of questions to consider.
1. What are the main tasks or duties you are responsible for?
 2. How or why are they important?
 3. How do they impact the world, ministries, and individuals for Christ?
 4. What would be the implications if you didn't perform these duties? What would be lacking in the ministry? What would fall through the cracks if you didn't do your job?
- B. You may find it difficult to answer these last 2 questions. One way to understand how you uniquely contribute and the implications it has on the Great Commission is through a flowchart. Let me show you what I do. We will make two flow charts.
1. In the first, break down your job in general, according to your responsibilities, and how it affects field staff and other ministries.
 2. In the second chart focus on a specific duty that you carry out (e.g., writing a computer program or compiling a regular report). Chart the impact this task has on the ministry when it is completed and the ramifications when it isn't.

- C. A third kind of flowchart views it all from your ministry partners' perspective. You may want to consider using this idea as a prayer letter topic, to help them visualize their part in your ministry. It will also create a greater understanding in them of the urgency and need for your ministry.

IV. Conclusion

(Use a personal, real-life example of how you have affected the Great Commission. Here is one:)

When I worked in the Payroll Department, I often had to help staff understand their salaries and the amount of money they had to work with, both personally and in their staff accounts. One individual I served happened to work with the United Nations. I was able to help him set his salary, utilize his staff account wisely, and assist him with some tax issues. Had I not, he would have needed to spend countless hours trying to understand these areas. But, because I helped free him up, he was able to share Christ relevantly with over 100 different diplomats last year, many of them from closed countries. And now, as a result, they are taking the gospel to their countries. God multiplied my impact on the world, and He is doing the same for you.