



Minding the Gap - October 2013

A Faith and Work Publication

Welcome to Minding the Gap, a monthly thought about faith in the workplace!

"Excellence"

There is a small company in the Twin Cities (by whom I was employed) that has the words in their mission document (Direction Statement): "The tradition of excellence at Reell was founded on a commitment to excellence rooted in the character of our Creator.we strive to free each other to grow and express the excellence that is within all of us." I believe this is a very true and challenging statement. For us, as Christians, excellence is not something which one learns or is driven towards, but a trait that is a part of our very being. Circumstances and timing always seem to influence us toward something which is less than excellent, but, that is not the essence or nature of humankind. Our understanding of excellence is taken from the account in Genesis where it is said we are created in His image. One translation says: "to be like himself" (Gen. 1:27-TEV) while various others use words such as "excellent", "very pleased", "very good" which describes our Creator's assessment of what He has done.

By being created in the "image of God" there is within each of us the qualities of goodness, creativity and morality. Humankind is not only the pinnacle of creation but brings with it the promise of being a blessing to the rest of creation. Therefore, excellence in workmanship and relationship is not something toward which one must be controlled or coerced to do, but something that comes forth from within when the proper conditions are present. Conditions such as being taught, equipped and then trusted to do excellently.

So, as we move into our work settings where the environment is often filled with suspicion, conflict, manipulation and other disqualities, we are challenged to remember how our

Creator sees us, and with grace instill this perspective into the hearts and minds of those around us. And remember, as one author stated, "God don't make no junk!"

Blessings to you,

Jim Grubs

Incarnation Lutheran Church, 4880 Hodgson Road, Shoreview, MN 55126