



Minding the Gap – March 2018

A Faith and Work Publication

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

It's a Matter of the Heart

A number of years ago when we began our Faith and Work endeavor at Incarnation, I did a survey. I went to the work sites of about 25 Incarnation members to better understand their work and the role of faith in their employment. One of the questions I asked was: "Do you view your work as ministry?" Initially, only two of the twenty-five answered "yes". By the end of my interview session, however, many more of them reflected back on our conversation and made a statement to effect of "You know, as we've talked about the nature of faith in the workplace, I believe I do view my work as ministry."

In Jeremiah 31:33, the prophet is inspired to write: ". . . says the Lord: I will put my law within them, and I will **write it on their hearts**; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people". When I read this, I am reminded of the persons from my experience above. They are people who have brought within them the "law of the Lord" (attitudes and acts such as kindness, respect, generosity, justice, humility, compassion, etc.). As they thought about their daily attitudes and behaviors, they realized they **had** integrated into themselves the ways of our God.

The question is: How does it happen that the "law of God", or perhaps more clearly stated, "the nature of God's character" *migrates from a set of external mandates to which we are compliant to a pattern of living toward which we aspire*. It requires us to realize this is **our true nature** - we are created in the image/likeness of God (Genesis 1:26). Thus, we are endowed with the very qualities of our Creator, and in partnership with Him, we *intentionally live* to release these qualities. Because of our human and limited nature, we must continually through *reading, reflection, prayer* and *conversation* **remind our heads and hearts** who we are and with whom we find our allegiance. Then follows the adage that **thoughts** find words; our **words** move us to action; our **actions** develop into **habitual patterns** and this pattern of behaviors becomes the "signature" of our **character** - the very qualities of our God.

Therefore, at work and beyond, know when you **say** and **do** "whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is pleasing, whatever is commendable"(Phil.4:8) you have taken "law of God", **embodied it in your heart** and made it a part of daily interaction with your coworkers. I always remember the words recorded in Matthew 10:19 where, when you have concern about what to say or do to be a good witness for God, Jesus says: "*do not worry about how you are to speak or what you are to say; for what you are to say will be given to you at that time.*"

We are indeed His witnesses! Blessings of Easter to all!

- Jim Grubs

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