

Current State of the Church

Studies show an alarming 90 percent of Christians do not feel they've been adequately trained to apply biblical faith in their work life. Over 70 percent of our time is spent in a working environment, many sermons and teaching focus on areas where we spend much less time. The workplace is the greatest mission field of our day, yet many workplace believers have not been trained on how to effectively integrate their faith into their jobs. The wall between Sunday and Monday still exists. Most believers do not understand that all of life is spiritual, not just life on Sunday.

A recent study found that:

- 50% - never heard a sermon on work
- 70% - never been taught theology of work
- 70% - never heard a sermon on vocation.

Many Christians have not allowed the power and influence of the gospel to be seen in effect in public places and affairs of government, corporate, ministry and national organizations. The Body of Christ has not pursued strongly its creation mandate that focuses on transformation of the society.

The way out of the current state is to recognize that there is no sacred-secular divide. "Every person who has followed the will of God in their life is in full-time Christian work." God calls some to the local church, mission field, others to be accountants, advertisers, and construction workers. God never made a distinction between sacred and secular. In fact, the Hebrew word "avodah" is the root word having the same meaning of "work" and "worship." God sees our work as worship. We are entering a new era in the Church when workplace believers need to be mobilized and trained for mission work in the workplace.

Christianity is a way of life and as such we cannot separate or compartmentalise our lives into private, public, professional and spiritual lives. Christian values are the core of our being or who we are and it is from this core that we live our lives. The hub of a bicycle wheel is what holds all the spokes together, without the hub the spokes cannot hold the wheel and move the bicycle in desired direction. The spokes are different areas of our lives and the hub is the core of our being. Without our Christian values guiding us, our workplaces, our communities and our nations, we lose our sense of direction that should be rooted in God and just go by popular culture of man that changes or goes through cycles.

Facts used by science may change but the Word of God is the Truth that never changes. For example, I learnt in elementary school that Pluto was a planet as a science fact but that changed in 2006 when it was declared not to meet the definition of a planet.

On recognition that there is no sacred and secular divide, we need to start focusing on how the Church can minister in the workplace. Watch out for a piece on workplace ministry next month.

Have a blessed day