

# “Every Square Inch” in the Workplace

CRC Communications Webinar  
Presented by Graham Seel October 15, 2014




## Where's the Disconnect?


- Is the church irrelevant to everyday life?
  
- Different worlds
  - Sunday and Monday
  - Church and Workplace



## Where's the Disconnect?

- Differing views of faith in the workplace
    - Ethics
    - Evangelism
    - Preferred: “full time ministry” or “helping” occupations
    - Being a “nice” person
    - Working to be able to afford to do ministry
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## Reformed Theology and Work

- Genesis 1–2, 3, 12
    - Creation, Fall, Redemption
  - Missio Dei
    - God's Mission, God's Kingdom
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## Reformed Theology and Work

- God's calling
  - Stewardship over Creation
  - Following Christ
  - Specific call / vocation



## Reformed Theology and Work

“There is not a square inch in the whole domain of our human existence over which Christ, who is Sovereign over all, does not cry, Mine!”

*Abraham Kuyper*

## Work and the Church

- Early Church: whole of life mission
- Middle Ages: dualism
- Reformation: re-integration



## Work and the Church

“God’s complete work is  
set in motion through  
vocation”

*Martin Luther*



## Work and the Church

- Enlightenment: neo-dualism
- Faith and Work movements
  - Early, mid and late 20<sup>th</sup> century
- Missional Movement: neo-integration



## Work and the Church

Where are we today? A mixed bag

Where is the CRC today?  
Forefront or rearguard?



## The Christian's Challenge

- Seeing God in our work
  
- Understanding why we are there
  - General vocation
  - Specific vocation




## The Christian's Challenge

- Living out our faith
  - Diligent, quality work

“The only Christian work  
is good work well done!”  
*Dorothy Sayers*



## The Christian's Challenge

- Living out our faith
    - Diligent, quality work
    - Ethical standards
    - Relationships – showing God's love (*1 Cor 13:4-8*)
    - Fruit of the Spirit (*Gal 5:22-23*)
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## The Christian's Challenge

- Sanctification through work
  - Allowing God (not the world) to shape us through our work (*Rom 12:2*)

“To a large extent, what we do forms who we are!”

*Tom Nelson*

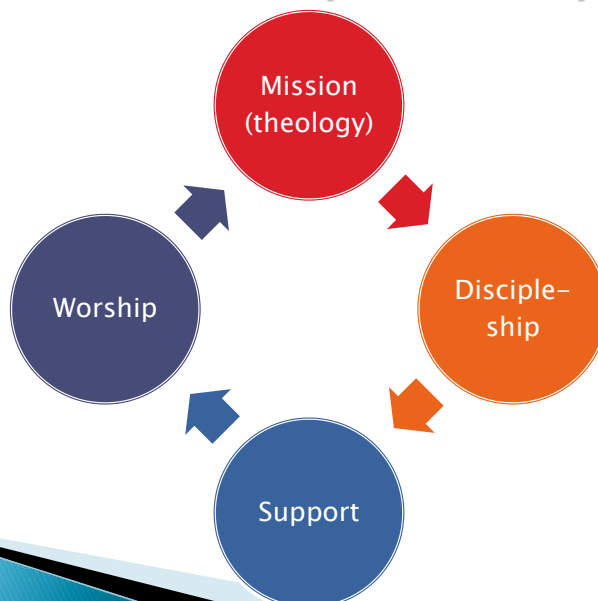


## The Church's Responsibility

- Connecting Sunday to Monday
  - Seeing our work as a part of God's mission through the church
  - Discernment of vocation
  - Faith formation at work
  - Supporting all workers
  - Celebration of God's Kingdom at work



## The Church's Responsibility





## Mission: Foundational Needs

- Leadership
  - Pastoral training and awareness
  - Lay ownership and partnership




## Mission: Foundational Needs


- Theology
  - Understanding God's Mission
  - Understanding the Church
  - Understanding God's vision for work




## Mission: Foundational Needs

- Church Culture
    - Freeing members for daily mission/ministry
    - Valuing every person's calling
    - Translating Biblical values to everyday living
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## Discipleship

- Who is discipling whom?
    - Pastors engaged in members' growth at work
    - Lay leaders teaching pastors
    - Peer exploration, mentoring, etc. in small groups
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# Discipleship

- Discipling approaches
    - Classroom interactive teaching
    - Small accountability groups
    - Small affinity groups (e.g. similar occupations)
    - Mentoring
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# Support

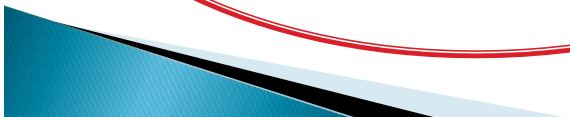
- General support structures
    - Discovery and understanding of vocation
    - Encouragement and affirmation
    - Challenge and accountability
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## Support


- Specialized support groups
  - Christian entrepreneurship
  - Emergency hotline (e.g. relational or ethics issues)
  - Job searching and creation




## Worship



## Conclusions

- God's plan for our work
    - We were all made to work – in God's image
    - God is at work – at our workplace
    - Each of us is privileged to be called by God to participate in His Kingdom work
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## Conclusions

- Our responsibility
    - With privilege comes responsibility
    - The church has a calling and responsibility to equip every member for good work  
*(2 Tim 3:17)*
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# Burning Question

Isn't it time for us to focus on the most important part of our church members' lives?

## Sample Resources

### Websites

Theology of Work – [www.theologyofwork.org](http://www.theologyofwork.org)  
Center for Faith & Work – [www.faihandwork.com](http://www.faihandwork.com)

### Blogs

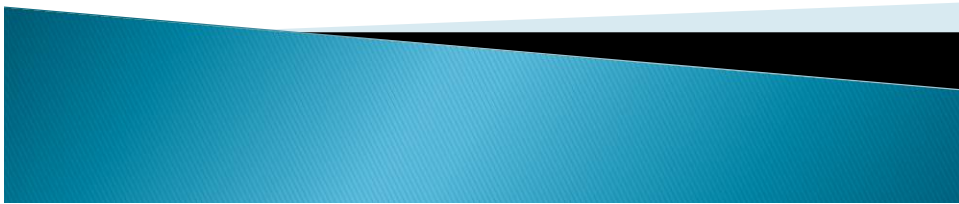
The High Calling – [www.thehighcalling.org/work](http://www.thehighcalling.org/work)  
Faith@Work – [faithatworkplace.blogspot.com/](http://faithatworkplace.blogspot.com/)  
Patheos Faith and Work – [www.patheos.com/Faith-and-Work.html](http://www.patheos.com/Faith-and-Work.html)

### Books

*Every Good Endeavor* – Timothy Keller  
*Work Matters* – Tom Nelson  
*The Other Six Days* – Paul Stevens  
*The Monday Connection* – William Diehl

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## Questions & Answers



## Contact

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