

STUDY GUIDE F O R SERVING CHRIST IN THE WORKPLACE

Chapter Eleven: The Church in the Workplace

Groundwork

Read Chapter Eleven.

"...any effort to present Jesus as Savior must focus on the church on Monday rather than the church on Sunday. No matter how big the church on Sunday becomes, it will never penetrate the culture with Jesus."

Jerry Cook, The Monday Morning Church.

"...most, if not all, of the world is already filled with God's missionaries."

Darrell Cosden, The Heavenly Good of Earthly Work.

Write out what you believe to be a biblical definition of the word "church."

On the subject of the church in the workplace, what comments or questions would you like to discuss with your group?

1. _____ (p. ____)
2. _____ (p. ____)
3. _____ (p. ____)

Groupwork

*From the book (p. 119).
"Has a deficient view of the Church let many of us into blind alleys in which we see no way to 'really serve the Lord' in our jobs?"*

Discuss the "from the book" question in the left column. (Put another way, the question is: "Does the way we see 'church' limit our vision of the church in the workplace?")

*From the book (p. 122).
"Without exception in Scripture a local church included all the believers in that community."*

Do you agree with the statement to the left? (Consider, for example, Romans 16:1 and Revelation 2 and 3.) Explain your answer.



Consider this: "The church at the corner of Seventh and Main Streets." What picture of the church does such a description create in our minds?

OR



Identify other ways of referring to "church" that do not include all the believers in a given community.

Imagine yourself a believer who works in a city government agency with 100 employees. Suppose ten percent (10) of these government workers are Christians you contact frequently. But only two of them are part of the group you gather with on Sundays.

Read the hypothetical situation described in the left column. Are you to practice the "one-another" commands of the New Testament just with the two or with all 10? Explain your answer.

If you answered "all ten," what are some of the difficulties you'll encounter if you set out to serve them as believers in the church in your workplace?

How can you resolve some of these barriers to ministering to the other believers where you work?

Luke 6:43-44. "No good tree bears bad fruit, nor does a bad tree bear good fruit. Each tree is recognized by its own fruit."

In the group you gather with on Sundays, how do you typically identify others as believers? How can you identify others as believers in the church in your workplace?

Accept
 Admonish
 Be kind to
 Bear with
 Build up
 Confess sins to
 Don't grumble against
 Encourage
 Forgive
 Greet
 Honor
 Instruct
 Live in harmony with
 Live in peace with
 Love
 Offer hospitality to
 Pray for
 Serve
 Spur on to love, good deeds
 Submit to

Once you have identified others in your workplace as believers, how—without formal church programs—can you serve them? (As you answer, consider the list of New Testament one-another instructions in the left column.)

Within your workplace, what proper limits must you observe as you serve other believers in love?

From the book (p. 126):
 "The real need is vision: we need to see our group as simply part of the one Church in our community. We must see that in our community there is only one Church—though it may have many meeting places."

How can you help other believers—including those you meet with on the weekend—to grasp the vision described in the column on the left?

Heartwork

"The church gets into trouble whenever it thinks it is in the church business rather than the Kingdom business... Church people think about how to get people into the church; Kingdom people think about how to get the church into the world."

**Howard Snyder,
Liberating the Church**

List the names of those you already know are believers in your workplace.

<hr/>	<hr/>
<hr/>	<hr/>
<hr/>	<hr/>
<hr/>	<hr/>

Pray that God will give you opportunities to practice one-anothering for these and other believers in the church in your workplace.