

The Sunday/Monday Barrier

Tom Nelson, author of the book *Work Matters*, says Christians often maintain a disconnect between the work they do Monday through Friday and the worship they experience in church on Sunday.

As a result, they often fail to see the spiritual value in their everyday experience.

Why do we work? In a week when we celebrated Labor Day as a national holiday, it's a good question to ponder.

If you were to ask the average Christian in most careers about the spiritual value of their job, many would shrug. Or perhaps they'd offer that secular employment provides the opportunity to tithe, share the gospel and provide for their families. These are all noble and important motivations for work, but they fall short of the real reason for our vocations – to glorify God.

And that is the purpose for the establishment of Life Care Centers of America, and why the *Mission and Values* statement proclaims: "We believe our work is rooted in the Judeo-Christian ethic, and that obedience to God is best measured by our service to others. Only by following this principle will our mission and potential as a corporation be fulfilled."

The Bible tells us that work was God's idea – He Himself is a worker, too – and as we use our talents to build, create, lead, etc., we're imaging our Creator. Work, then, is more than a means to an end (survival). It is actually a form of worship and the vehicle through which we live out our calling in the world.

This means that seemingly menial tasks take on cosmic significance. Food prepared in the kitchen and served to our residents in the dining room. Increasing the number of steps in a patient's rehab program. Replacing light bulbs in lamps in the lobby and in resident rooms. Giving the floors an impressive shine. Keeping the grass cut.

Each job is not simply a way to earn more money, but an opportunity to glorify the Creator by producing quality work and reflecting His love to others.

A proper theology of vocation can chip away at the unbiblical barrier between Sunday and Monday, between the sacred and the secular. The workplace – especially our nursing centers – can become a theatre for God's activity through you, a canvas upon which God is illustrating His redemptive purposes.

Whatever you do, do it enthusiastically, as something done for the Lord and not for men (Colossians 3:23).

– Beecher Hunter