

“FAITH AT WORK: Education and Students”
by Rev. James C. Ramsey

Texts: Proverb 16:16
1 Corinthians 13:1-7

Preached: 2/3/19

What does it mean to take your faith to work with you?! What does your everyday work have to do with the LORD’s work? Each Sunday this month we will consider these questions.

Talking about faith often leaves people perplexed. We are not sure exactly what it is or what it’s supposed to be.

But the biblical picture of faith is strong and vivid. The Book of Hebrews says: *Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen.* Faith is not about believing a set of propositions; it is rather a certain kind of confidence. It’s about knowing what really counts and what is less important.

What counts for God...is love. Usually we hear about love at weddings, but for Jesus, and for us who serve him, love applies much more broadly to all relationships – including, and not least of all, to our relationships at work.

Love is not self-seeking, does not envy or boast, and is not proud. It’s not about us, not about our own success or making ourselves look good. It’s not about our personal agendas. It’s about how we relate to coworkers. Do we treat them with kindness, patience, grace? Love keeps no record of wrongs. Sounds poetic, but not so easy to do in the workplace. Ours is not a culture that rejoices in the truth...but love does. Ours can be an irritable culture...many have a short fuse. People can be suspicious, vindictive, or resentful. But the one who loves, bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things. .

What does all this mean in the field of education? What does it look like to take faith to school? It just so happens, we have some answers, brief reflections from some resident experts. I’m pleased to welcome them – Brad Spence, who teaches math at Deer Lakes High School, John Burk, a long-time teacher who still teaches a class at Pitt, Cheryl Haynes, who directs our own Deer Lakes Nursery School, and Sam Smallwood, now a sophomore at Pitt.

---Brad Spence’s Reflection.....

---John Burk’s Reflection.....

---Cheryl Haynes’ Reflection.....

---Sam Smallwood’s Reflection.....

God goes with us wherever we go...certainly to school. Teaching and learning have always been important to God and God’s people. The process of learning, growing, maturing is more valuable than precious metals – goes the Proverb.

Jesus, himself, was known for his teaching. God cares about teachers and students, about principals and guidance counselors, aides and school bus drivers.

God cares about us when we head to work, whatever that is...God values our effort and perseverance, honors the love we show and the grace we share. Take your faith to work – it makes a difference.

In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.