



HELPING CHURCH LEADERS TRANSITION FROM THE PRESENT TO THE FUTURE

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@ THE INTERSECTION OF LIFE AND WORK

Of all the changes in American culture during the past twenty-five years, one of the most profound has been the increasing dominance of work in people's lives. Work, family, civic and religious involvement used to be the cornerstones of societal life. For many, their family, religious and civic institutions have fragmented, and now it is the marketplace or the how and where of their work that defines their lives and provides the framework for their values and beliefs. For the Christian, at the intersection of life and work is faith and it is clear that many business leaders today have a hunger for linking their faith and work.

An excellent new publication, *The Life@Work Journal*,* is seeking to address issues related to the intersection of faith and work. In their market research, they discovered some interesting opinions from believers who were business leaders. Ellison Research of Phoenix interviewed more than 3,500 people, including 602 who fit specified criteria: they considered Christian religious beliefs to be very important to their daily lives; they were employed full-time; they felt their lives at work and their spiritual beliefs should intersect; and they held positions of some authority at their workplaces. Based on the survey, approximately 20 percent of the population---or 39 million American adults---would fit these criteria.

- When asked to rate how spirituality and work intersect on a scale of one to seven, with seven being the highest, 45 percent of the group ranked this intersection a seven, meaning there should be a complete overlap. Eighty-one percent rated it a five or higher.
- While nearly 50 percent of those surveyed said spirituality and work should overlap completely, only 33 percent said it actually does.
- Nine of ten respondents felt they typically have the chance to have a positive influence on the personal lives of others at work.
- In terms of "very important" factors affecting their daily lives, family ranked the highest (99%) followed by Christian beliefs (88%), daily work (70%), long-term career (61%) and financial success (46%).

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