

Intentionality Map (IMAP)

There are thousands, maybe millions of believers in the marketplace today who don't know how to be an active Christian at work. They may get inspired on Sunday, but they're lost on what to do at the office from Monday to Friday. They have a monkey on their back telling them to step up . . . step out . . . make a difference for Christ, but they shy away from the call and remain silent and ineffectual. Why?

To begin with, we don't view our work the way God does. We believe ministers do ministry while we just do our jobs. Our 20th century Christianity defines 'witnessing' in a way Jesus never did, making it nearly impossible to do and mostly ineffective. Unbelievers run from the "born-again" at work, and we're lost on how to change that . . . until now.

We are all called to be about our Father's business, regardless of our vocation. When Jesus instructed us to make disciples, he wasn't just speaking to the church staff. He was talking everyone . . . you included.

So how do we do it? We begin by deciding to be *intentional* about our relationships at work. We focus on the people we work for, the people we work with, our subordinates, our vendors and our suppliers. Ok, but once you've identified the people in your sphere of influence, what do you do? Create an Intentionality Map, or IMAP. The idea behind the IMAP is to sort those people according to where we think they are in their spiritual journey. Use your best guess . . . don't judge, just decide where you think they should go. Here's what each column looks like:

Column **A** is for **Apathetic**. When it comes to religion or spiritual things, this is where ignorance meets apathy. People in this column don't know and don't care. These are people who do not know Jesus Christ and have no interest in spiritual things, though they could have had a religious experience sometime in the past. They may even express resentment toward Christians or God.

Column **B** is **Beginning to Search**. These are people who are beginning to seek and search. While they do not believe in Jesus Christ, they are beginning to show interest in spiritual things, whether it's reading books, listening to sermons, or attending a church. They may not own a Bible, but they might have a library of books such as *The Celestine Prophecy* or *The da Vinci Code*. They may read their horoscopes every day and talk about God often, but they don't have the answers and may or may not be conscious of their search for truth.

Column **C** is **Confessing Christian**. These are people who say, "I believe." They have some affiliation with a church or they may attend mass. At the same time, there isn't evidence of growth in their lives. They may still be harboring sinful behaviors and may not exhibit any of the fruit of the Spirit. They probably make little or no reference to their faith at work. They are the silent majority. If there were a public trial where they were charged with being a follower of Jesus Christ, there would not be enough evidence to convict them. These are passive Christians.

Column **D** is **Developing Disciple**. These are people who are *doing* something to grow in their Christian faith. They are in a Bible study or small group. They read the Bible and Christian books. They pray. They listen to sermons or talks, and are growing in their faith. You can see peace, love, joy, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control in their lives. They are most

likely involved in a church or other ministry activity. They are active followers of Jesus Christ and are not ashamed to be so.

Column **E** is **Excelling**. The distinguishing characteristic of an Excelling Christian is taking intentional action to bring others to a growing faith in Christ. These people understand and embrace the mission of making disciples. They exhibit the same attributes as someone in column D, but in addition, they are actively involved in leading others to next steps in their walk with Christ. They lead small groups, they teach, mentor, coach, and disciple others.

Being 'about your father's business' means you start to pray for the people on your IMAP, asking God to move them from A to E one step at a time. As He leads, the focus of your relationship with that co-worker becomes loving, serving and attempting to help them take that next step, whatever that is for them. Usually, your role will be to become a trusted friend, pray for them, and wait for the *disruption* that often turns one's heart toward their need for God. Then you're positioned to be a witness . . . to tell them what God has done for you. We can all tell our story . . . and that may be all it takes for your colleague to take the next step. You aren't responsible for the outcome, only for doing your part.

Approaching your workplace this way gives Kingdom purpose to your work and to your work relationships. Since no one comes to the Father unless He draws them, you can relax and be yourself. You can be an example of a life with God by going to your job each day focused on connecting with the people in your sphere of influence to helping move them toward an excelling relationship with Christ, one step at a time.

A

Apathetic

Doesn't know and doesn't care about spiritual things.

B

Beginning
(to Search)

Doesn't know the answers, but is beginning to think there's something here.

C

Confessing

Believes that Jesus Christ was God, but you would never know it. Passive!

D

Developing

Seriously committed to Christianity, growing, not ashamed of their faith.

E

Excelling

Living out the Christian life and is helping others get there.
