



Guidelines for Marketplace Ministry

Bringing God to work can raise questions of company policy and co-worker expectations of Christians in the workplace. Metro Marketplace Ministry offers the following guidelines for making the greatest positive impact for the Kingdom:

Participating in Christian activities in the workplace carries benefits for your company by:

- Contributing to diversity initiatives
- Creating more productive employees, because the company allows you to be true to core personal values
- Supporting co-workers in difficult times
- Adding to the company's integrity when we live to Biblical standards
- Portraying your company as a community supporter
- Giving the company a hiring advantage as a result of the items above

At the same time, we need to follow guidelines when bringing Christianity to the workplace. Jesus described how government deserved our respect (Matt 22:21). The same applies to the company that provides our employment. Following are key principles:

Legal Requirements

The Civil Rights Act of 1964 sets forth permissions and restrictions related to religion in the workplace. Sharing and exhibiting your faith is acceptable as long as:

- It doesn't interfere with work.
- You stop discussing religion if a coworker indicates directly or indirectly that he or she does not wish to discuss matters of religion.

Source: FaithInTheWorkplace.com

(www.christianitytoday.com/workplace/articles/legalimplications.html)

Time

- Religious activities, such as a Bible study, should take place outside normal work hours (before or after work hours or during your lunch hour).
- If you take away from company time, give at least the same amount of time back. For instance, if a Bible study runs over, return at least that time in focused work.

Location

Matt 6:6 should guide most activities: "When you pray, go into your room, close the door and pray to your Father." (NIV)

- A remote place is best for more privacy and to help participants focus. An off-site location can offer advantages.
- Do not interrupt work flow in the vicinity. For instance, do not book a room for the time and location that a scheduled work meeting is to take place.

E-mail

- Observe the concepts regarding time.
- Put names in the bcc section when e-mailing a large number of people.
- Allow people to request to be removed from a regular, broadly distributed e-mail.

Your Example

It's been said that you may be the only Bible a person may ever read. Your daily example – from business dealings to your attitude – can be positive proof or a hypocritical flag to coworkers. Love your neighbor (Matt 22:39), be salt and light (Matt 5:13-14), and live a life worthy of the calling of Jesus Christ (Eph 4:1).