

As Christian workers, we must never put our careers before God and our families.

<http://www.biblecenter.com/sermons/christianityintheworkplace.htm>

1. Let's face it, in our society, the family is in serious trouble because Careers are becoming more important than the family.
2. It is not enough anymore to just work 40 hours a week. Now, people are choosing to work longer hours or get second jobs so that they can make more money to keep up with the Smith's and the Jones'.
3. The family unity is disintegrating because husbands, wives, and parents are more preoccupied with their professions then they are with their own families' needs.
4. In the Bible, Eli, who was a Priest and Judge in Israel, was a man who spent more time working, then he did caring for his families' well being.
 - a. In fact, Eli was so preoccupied with his career that he did not even know about the trouble that his children were in.

 Read (1 Sam. 2:22-25).

- b. Eli's sons, (Hof-ny) and (Fin-e-has) had followed in their fathers footsteps by both becoming priests. However, these two ministers of God became so immoral that they were sleeping with their co-workers.
 - c. To make things even worse, their Father, the Priest did not even know what was going on, even though everyone else did. Because he was spending too much time at the office, Eli had lost touch with his family. His children even lost respect for him (v. 25).
5. If the family unit is going to survive, it must understand that God and family are more important than money and careers.

ILLUSTRATION:

When his wife died, the baby was two. They had six other children--three boys and three girls, ranging in age from 4 to 16.

A few days after he became a widower, the man's parents and his deceased wife's parents came to visit.

"We've been talking," they said, "about how to make this work. There's no way you can take care of all these children and work to make a living. So, we've arranged for each child to be placed with a different uncle and aunt. We're making sure that all of your children will be living right here in the neighborhood, so you can see them anytime..."

The man responded, "You have no idea how much I appreciate your thoughtfulness. But I want you to know," he smiled and continued, "if the children should interfere with my work, or if we should need any help, we'll let you know."

Years later, the children finally grew up and got married. Five of the seven went off to college, most after they were married.

Then came grandchildren. No one enjoyed grandchildren more than this man. They brought him great joy.

Finally, the youngest daughter--the baby, who had been two years old at her mother's death--got married. And within a short time, the man, his life's work completed, died.

6. This man chose his family over his career. His life's work was to raise his family.
7. What about you? What is your life's work? Is it your career? Or is it your family?
8. On the day of judgement, God is not going to be concerned with what type of career we had, how much money we made, or how many college degrees we acquired.
9. He is going to be concerned with how well we loved and served Him and how well we loved and managed our household.
10. If your career has become your first love, then you need to make some changes before it is too late. Don't sacrifice your salvation and your family, for prestige and the mighty dollar.