



BIBLEWAY MINISTRIES

MAKING A DIFFERENCE—THE BIBLE WAY



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Recently, the actor Geoffrey Owens, who played the Huxtables' son-in-law on *The Cosby Show*, was spotted working at a Trader Joe's in New Jersey. The woman who spotted Owens took pictures and posted them on social media. She stated, "It made me feel really bad! I was like, 'Wow, all those years of doing the [Cosby] show, and you ended up as a cashier.'"

Naturally, the woman's comments generated quite a bit of media frenzy at the suggestion that Owens should be ashamed for working at a grocery store after being an actor. Fellow actors came to Owens' defense, mentioning that often from one show to the next an actor has to take on side jobs to make ends meet. Certainly no shame should be experienced, especially since the vast majority of actors are not millionaires and acknowledge that acting is not always a full-time job. It is also interesting to note Trader Joe's is a pretty good company to work for, as far as retail jobs go. The grocery chain is on Glassdoor's 100 Best Places to Work in 2018, pays an above-average minimum wage, offers annual bonuses, and provides health insurance and retirement benefits for even part-time workers.

Perhaps the most alarming point from this story is that we often equate one's value with his or her job. For most of us, after brief introduction to someone new, the question comes up, "What do you do for a living?" We have grown to determine the importance of an individual based on his or her occupation or perceived status in life. How easy it is to forget that regardless of what business you happen to be in, every worker and job is important — from the janitor who sweeps the floors to the person who cheerfully delivers the mail.

Sometimes Even Bosses Forget This Important Fact!

Once I worked for a boss who never spoke to her employees if she was with one of her managers. On one occasion I was in an elevator, and watched as she entered the elevator with her manager, politely introduc-

ing this manager to another manager standing in the elevator, while completely ignoring the fact I was present. Perhaps if I was a vice president I, too, would have received an introduction.

This type of favoritism is not unique to the secular workforce: we often make the same mistakes in the Body of Christ by developing our opinion of individuals based on their vocation or our perception of their station in life. The Apostle James made the observation, "*For if there come unto your assembly a man with a gold ring, in goodly apparel, and there come in also a poor man in vile raiment; And ye have respect to him that weareth the gay clothing, and say unto him, Sit thou here in a good place; and say to the poor, Stand thou there, or sit here under my footstool: Are ye not then partial in yourselves, and are become judges of evil thoughts?*" (James 2:2-4)

Years ago when our family spent months looking for a church home, people at churches we visited would ask, "What do you do for a living?" Just once I would like to have said, "I am a Christian, secretly disguised as a [fill-in-the-blank] for [XYZ Company]!" Can you imagine what their response would be?

Should Our Professional Occupation or Church Vocation Matter?

Unfortunately, everyone cannot have six-figure jobs. In fact, the majority of jobs in our country are related to retail and supermarkets. These include retail sales, cashiers, food preparation and serving, waiters and waitresses, and customer service representatives. The same can be said about work in the church. Everyone cannot be a pastor. There is an equal need for ushers, greeters, teachers, deacons, and elders as well. God isn't concerned about our specific job title or job description, but He cares about how we use our profession or vocation to honor Him.

The Most Important Thing about Our Profession!

God sees neither Jew nor Greek . . . >>> [Keep Reading](#)

DISTRACTIONS:

The Unsettling Truth about Neverland

"All children, except one, grow up." So begins the 1911 novel, *Peter and Wendy*, by J.M. Barrie. Read its pages, and you will travel to an enchanted island where children live out their fantasies without ever growing up. The story's main character, Peter Pan, is a child who fled his home to live with the fairies in Neverland after overhearing his parents talk about the rigors of life as an adult. Offended at the very thought of growing up, he made every effort to avoid this unpleasantness at all costs. Neverland allowed him to realize his dream, and he loved it.

The young man (though he would never want you to call him that) was drawn to the Darling's home in London when he overheard their bedtime stories. There, he met Wendy and invited her and her two brothers to join him in Neverland.

Once they arrived in Neverland, the small band of children embarked on many exhilarating adventures. They fought pirates, rescued a princess, and befriended a fairy whose magical pixie dust helped them fly. What a life they experienced!

Wendy grew to love Neverland, but she knew she would never again see her parents if she stayed there. Absent from the mystical island were the toil and responsibilities of her London home, but something within her longed to return to the world she had left.

At the end of the story, Wendy and her brothers chose to grow up, forsaking Neverland to return to their distraught parents in London. But Peter Pan refused to join them, in fear they would "catch him and make him a man."

Peter Pan never did grow up. His love for the comforts and ease of Neverland had eclipsed his desire for the realities of the real world. His self-absorption shielded him from the pain and discomfort of life beyond Neverland, but it robbed him of the purpose and freedom which comes from embracing the truth. The lad's feelings had distracted him from the truth.

Some might call Peter Pan a fanciful dreamer; God's Word calls him a fool. [Gulp!] You read that right: God would have called Peter Pan a fool.

Neverland's Truth Problem

Why tarnish this fictional character's otherwise-heroic reputation? Because his ideology is corrupting millions of people in our culture today. When a person can change their gender based on their feelings or justify marrying

anyone or anything that suits them, you know we have a problem. This problem is compounded when political, social, financial, and economic pressure is applied not only to approve of sinful and destructive lifestyle choices, but also to endorse and praise them.

Peter Pan's subjective, escapist view of truth has become a mental opiate for the political and social wheels which drive our culture. Yet we cannot swallow a lie without redefining or ignoring the truth — and this to our peril.

For example, this week, millions of college students are beginning classes. To welcome them, 400 campuses around the US have established speech codes, sheltering students from any speech they might consider offensive.

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