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## *Gleanings*

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## **Separation of Personal and Work Life?**

When a manager discovered that one of his workers was committing adultery, the manager told the worker that what the worker did in private was not an issue as long as it did not impact his job performance. By this statement, the manager assumed that the worker's private life could be separated from his work life.

This is a common assumption today. For example, in 1998 President Clinton lied to the American people about an extramarital affair with a female member of his staff. He was impeached by the House of Representatives but ultimately acquitted by the Senate. The message of this action was that the president's lie about his private life did not impair his ability to make good decisions in his work life. Since our government is a representative democracy, the actions of Congress to some degree reflected the views of the American people.

Interestingly, there are some people who don't agree that private life can be bifurcated from work life. One such person is Truett Cathy, the founder of Chick-fil-A. According to a *USA Today* article ("Chick-fil-A Owner Offers Marital Advice on the Side" by Sharon Jayson, *USA Today*, 6/22/06) Mr. Cathy is so convinced that private life and work life are inseparable that he spends millions of dollars a year to support the families and marriages of his workers and his franchisees. This money is invested in such activities as seminars, retreats, and private counseling all designed to strengthen home life.

The article quoted Mr. Cathy as saying, "You can't expect people to do well in their business if they've got problems at home." Clearly, he doesn't support the ubiquitous assumption of separation of personal and work life.

In case you are tempted to dismiss Mr. Cathy's convictions as "old school," the article goes on to report what researchers say about the issue of separation of personal life and work life. You may not like the answer, but they support Mr. Cathy's view, not the view of the American people as expressed in the acquittal of President Clinton.

Like it or not, we humans cannot separate who we are privately from who we are at work. We are integrated beings.

Famed automobile pioneer Henry Ford bemoaned the reality that people are integrated beings. He is reported to have said that all he wanted to hire was a pair of hands, but instead he got the whole person. In other words, with every hire, he hired the person's philosophy, values, principles, and worst of all, that person's problems.

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Given that the assumption of separation of personal and work life is a fallacious assumption, one of the best ways to discern the quality of work that one can expect from a person is to look at that person's private life. For example, if the person lies and is deceitful in his private life, why would you expect that person not to lie and be deceitful at work?

May I offer you a New Year's resolution? If you have bought into the erroneous assumption of the bifurcation of personal and work life, repent. Recognize the reality that we humans are integrated beings. What we are in our private personal lives, we are at work. Indeed, what we are in our private personal lives we are in every area of life. Being good workers, good citizens, and good church-goers starts by having healthy families and marriages. Healthy families and marriages are the fruit of one's relationship with God. Get your relationship with God right and everything else in life will flow well for you.

Happy New Year!

## Book (For information, click here.)

***Beyond Babel*** by Gerald R. Chester, Ph.D.

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*Dennis Peacocke, from the Foreward in ***Beyond Babel****



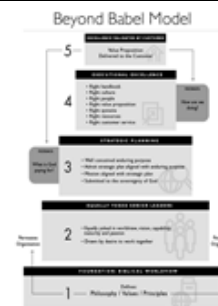
## Audio Products (For information, click here.)

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Beyond Babel Model  
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## Coming Events (For information, click here.)

### Executive Forum

Friday, January 12, 2007 in Plano, TX

### Strategic Life Alignment Seminar

Friday, February 16, 2007 in Plano, TX

### Executorial Excellence: A Business Transformation Series Seminar

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