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GSU-1107 Foundations of Learning

August 21st, 2017

Assignment 1.4

Occupation and Vocation Reflection

In my life it has been important for me to consider the difference between my occupation and my vocation. Occupation often limits us to what we are currently doing, vocation is a reminder of what we feel called to do or personally satisfied.

In reading this week’s materials and considering occupation vs. vocation, I found myself meditating on the occupy part of the word occupation. My occupation is how I occupy my time as a means to an end. I have been occupied by being a hotel clerk in the past to pay for the things I needed to pursue my vocation in the future. My vocation refers to something I am more suited for or feel more passionately called.

To be a steward in my life is to constantly remind myself that all I have first belonged to God. God has granted me to look over that which has been given. We often use this word when referring to our finances, but can easily forget it’s impact when it comes to our time and our talent. To get through life successfully we must often work at jobs that only meet our occupational needs, not our vocational needs. At some point, we must wrestle with the idea that these occupations are not fulfilling our God given time and talents. They must be seen as a mean to an end that is better stewardship to God. I certainly feel in my career as a Pastor I have become a better steward of my life than when I was working at a hotel or in fast food.

I come into this class and conversation slightly more blessed than others because I am well into adulthood. I am already married, with a career and an established life pattern that I believe allows me to follow God’s calling. I am not transitioning, I have transitioned. In many ways, taking these classes is to solidify my role in Christian ministry so that I never have to return to simply an occupation and continue to pursue the vocational goals that God has laid before me. However, there are still strategies I can use to make sure to stay on this path. One strategy is to make sure I find good balance between work, home and school to allow all three to thrive. Neglecting school for the sake of my work will only put that work in jeopardy in the long run and go against my goals. Unnecessary conflict with in my family would damage all three. I must navigate these waters closely. I must be organized to achieve my goals, so I do not become overwhelmed. I will remember that my current “struggle” is all in pursuit of my true vocation and God’s calling in my life.