

## Perfecting Our Priorities

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by Dr. J. Terry Johnson

Educational conferences leave me limp. My practice is to avoid attending all of them that that are not absolutely essential to my work at the College. But on occasion, a conference speaker will present a thought in an unusually arresting manner.

Such was the case at a presidential leadership workshop that was held last month in Houston. A gentleman made this observation:

**“We worship our work; we work at our play; we play at our worship.”**

Although granting that many escape this indictment, I fear it is a fair social commentary of our times.

**We Worship Our Work.** The workaholic syndrome is finally becoming recognized for the curse it is. Responsibilities to family and to Christian service have been neglected by men and women whose careers have become the most important thing in their lives. One does not have to abandon his belief in the American work ethic in order to bring balance into his life. My job can easily demand sixteen hours a day, seven days a week — and for a good cause. But when that happens, it comes between me and my responsibilities toward God.

**We Work At Our Play.** Adult recreation is big business. It is not enough that we fish, or jog, or camp out, or play tennis. Each of these activities requires its own special uniform and equipment. Brand names have become status symbols. Color coordinated parkas and ski caps are essential. Private lessons and hours of practice burden the schedules of our day. Our frantic lives beg for renewal and relaxation, but we have paid an enormous price to participate in our adult games.

**We Play At Our Worship.** This phenomenon is not peculiar to our own time. For centuries people have worshipped God superficially. Jesus cautioned of those whose purpose is to be seen of men. Such worship is vain. It is a charade. When we offer God all that we are and possess, a genuine effort is expended. Praise and adoration issue forth unto our Creator — and we worship from sincere hearts.

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