

Can Pastor Do It All?

In (Exodus 18:13-27) we find the story of Jethro's advice to his son-in-law Moses. Moses was spending so much time and energy hearing the Hebrews' complaints that he could not get to other important work. Jethro suggested that Moses delegate most of this work to others and focus his efforts on jobs only he could do. Delegation relieved Moses' stress and improved the quality of the government. It helped prepare them for the system of government set up in Canaan. Proper delegation multiplies the effectiveness of the Church while giving others a chance to grow.

In (Acts 6:1-7) when the number of the disciples was multiplying, there arose a complaint against the Hebrews by the Hellenists, because their widows were neglected in the daily distribution of food. So the twelve Apostles summoned the multitude of the disciples and said, "It is not desirable that we should leave the word of God and serve tables. Therefore, brethren, seek out from among you seven men of good reputation, full of the Holy Spirit and wisdom, whom we may appoint over this business, and we will give ourselves continually to prayer and to the ministry of the word."

This pleased the whole multitude. And they chose Stephen, a man full of faith and the Holy Spirit, and six others from Antioch, and the Apostles prayed and laid hands on them. Then the word of God spread, and the number of the disciples multiplied greatly in Jerusalem.

When we read the descriptions of the early church—the miracles, the sharing and generosity, the fellowship—we may wish we could have been a part of this "perfect" church. In reality, the early Church was not perfect but had problems just as we do today. No church has ever been or will ever be perfect until the return of Christ.

IN Ephesians 4:11-13 we see Paul's idea of the Pastor's responsibility in the Church. We read, "It is he who gifted some to be apostles, others to be prophets, others to be evangelists, and still others to be pastors and teachers. Their purpose is to perfect the saints, to do the work of ministry, and to build up the body of Christ..."

In Thomas Edison's illustrious career he had over 1,100 patents. His genius, however, was not as a great scientist, engineer, mathematician or some other gifted talent. His real genius was bringing together great minds and getting them to work together to accomplish things that no one could do on their own.

God has blessed our Church with people of a variety of skills. He has given us people with good administrative and maintenance skills as well as gifts in ministry. He has given us good cooks and people to lead us in fund raisers and programs that expose us to the community.

In a few weeks Pastor Jennifer Jue will be joining us and she comes well qualified with pastoral skills. But no, "The pastor cannot do it all," we all need to use our God given skills to work together to build up the Church in a way that no one can do on their own.

"In all my prayers for all of you, I always pray with joy!" Philip. 1:4