

Prioritize Your Ministry

By Bob Young

Here is an important principle I learned in three decades of full-time and interim ministry and a dozen years of university administration and teaching — an improper understanding of the leader’s role makes it virtually impossible to get the work done. Dave Crenshaw (*The Myth of Multitasking: How “Doing It All” Gets Nothing Done*) writes about the importance of priorities, “The people with whom we live and work every day deserve our full attention. When we...jump from one thing to another, the cost of those interruptions will be much greater than the simple loss of time.”

When the leader takes on too many tasks, ministry becomes unfocused and the most important matters are neglected. Each leader has a job to do; that job should be done well. The key to successful ministry is to establish priorities and follow them scrupulously. For me it was not easy, but eventually I learned that I could not attend every function, counsel every person, and do everything that others expected. Focused ministry depends on doing what is most important. My desire to “do it all” disempowered others and discouraged the involvement of the members of the body. When I learned the simple lesson I am sharing, the church blossomed and the members become amazingly active and involved.

Those who try to focus on many things seldom do any of them well. I am reminded of Curly’s “one thing” in the movie, *City Slickers*. Define the ministry, determine your priority, and delegate everything else. Focusing on what you are called to do will help others grow as they assume their specific roles. The result will be conversions, discipleship, fellowship, and spiritual growth for all.