

Thank God for the superstars! They are of all men most fortunate. But the church of Jesus Christ cannot run on superstars, and God never intended that it should. There just are not that many, actually or potentially, and there never will be. God does not promise the church an affluence of superstars. But he does promise to provide all necessary leadership through the gifts of the Spirit. (Eph. 4:1-16) If a denomination must depend on pastoral superstars for growth, there is something drastically wrong with its structure and, more fundamentally, with its understanding of the church.⁷

This interest in renewing the structure of the church and especially the ministry has led to increased interest in teamwork in the ministry.

(2) The greater demands on leadership for quality in ministry. The evangelical community is better informed today than in years past. Christian literature by the tons, Christian radio broadcasting, films and T.V. have contributed to this trend. (The quality of some of the information available is open to question. Sorting through this enormous amount of material adds to the minister's burden.)

a. People want and should have better preaching.

A twenty minute topical message made up of a few Scripture verses linked by some stories will not do. There is a greater demand than ever for solid expository Bible teaching. It is the kind of preaching that requires the right gifts and training as well as sufficient time and energy. It is, most importantly, the kind of preaching that God demands and will provide for His people

⁷Howard A. Snyder, The Problem of Wine Skins (Downers Grove, Illinois: Inter-Varsity Press, 1975), p. 84.