

From what Paul says in 1 Cor. 12:7 & 11, all believers receive spiritual gifts that are to be exercised for the common good. While there are multigifted individuals, no one man possesses all the gifts (1 Cor. 12:29-30). It should be expected that a multiple staff or team ministry would reflect a diversity of gifts in the various members of the group.

There are many vivid examples of churches built around one man that reflect, in their emphasis, the limitations of that one man. There are churches headed by men who are gifted evangelists, and the whole program of the church is evangelistic in thrust. The adult Sunday School hour doesn't differ a wit from an evangelistic campaign. Christians are trained in personal work and follow-up, but there is virtually no teaching ministry being exercised otherwise. The man at the helm is also expected to be an administrator, a merciful hospital visitor, a fund raiser, and carry out several other roles. Along with the neglect of providing meaty teaching for the believers in the congregation, these areas also suffer because of the leader's limitations.

The fault is not entirely in the man who is in leadership. It is rather a result of an unbiblical view of the ministry. If the same church had men gifted in expository Bible teaching, works of compassion and mercy, and administration, working alongside the gifted evangelist, much more could be accomplished and the needs of the congregation could be better served.

c. This pattern involves every believer in a ministry of some kind. In Eph. 4:11-12, Paul says that the purpose of the various officers of the church is to "prepare God's people for works