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# The All-In-One

Moment of Manna

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In our Computer Store we sell the All-In-One. It's a multi-purpose device that prints, scans, copies, is a fax machine, and can be wireless. It's very popular because it saves space and it saves money. The downside to it is that when you have a device that does more than one thing, it doesn't do all of them really well, and they tend to break down quicker. Although it may be more expensive, you're much better off with a device that does one thing, and does it well. If you need a scanner, you should buy one that does nothing else. It will do a much better job than one that is a part of a multi-purpose unit, and it'll last longer, too. But today, we have that all-in-one mentality. It works, but it's not the best way to go.

I'm a salesman. I'm a very good salesman. I can sell the paint off the wall. When someone buys a computer from me, they begin to think of me as an all-in-one person. If they have a question or a problem, they call me first, expecting me to have the answer, or be able to fix their computer. Now, I can do an adequate job. I can build a computer from scratch. I can do some repairs and answer some of their questions, but I was not designed as an all-in-one device. I'm a salesman and technical questions are better left to the technicians, so if it's not a problem that I can easily solve, I refer them to the tech department. That's their area of expertise. They don't sell, and I don't repair. We stick to what we do best.

Eph 4:11 says, "Now these are the gifts Christ gave to the church: the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, and the pastors and teachers."

God loved the church so much He gave it these 5 gifts. He never said all 5 would be found in 1 person. We sometimes think the pastor is supposed to do all of these things, that only he could have these gifts. In assuming that we lose sight of the fact that someone here might have the gift of teaching, or apostle, or prophet or evangelist, or pastor. If you're called to be a teacher, TEACH. If you're called to be an apostle, PLANT. If you're called to be a prophet, PROPHECY. If you're called to be an evangelist, EVANGELIZE. If you're called to be a pastor, PASTEURIZE.

Pasteurization is a process developed by Louis Pasteur and named after him. In this process you turn up the heat on a product. In doing so, the increased heat burns off the impurities in the product. It removes the bacteria and other unhealthy parts making it stronger and healthier and more beneficial to the body.

Isn't that what the pastor does to the congregation? The pastor turns up the heat on the congregation so that it burns off the impurities, making it stronger and healthier and more beneficial to the body.

When we assume the gifts can only be for someone else, we miss out on the personal blessing of hearing God's call on our lives, the church misses out on the blessing of receiving the benefit of that gift, and the pastor has the added pressure of trying to fill in the gaps and be all things to the congregation. We need to recognize the fact that we may have that gift, and we need to start using it. The pastor is not an all-in-one.

I want my pastor to be able to spend his time seeking God's face and hearing God's voice so he can prepare us for works of service, and not have to spend his time on the nuts and bolts kinds of things that others should handle, allowing him to concentrate on what he was called to do. It's those other things that can discourage a pastor. I like this little story.

A mother called her son one Sunday morning, to get out of bed and get ready for church. He replied, "I'm not going." His mother said, "Yes you are going, so get out of that bed." He said, "Give me one good reason why I should go." She replied, "I'll give you 3 good reasons...1. I'm your mother, and I say you're going. 2. You're nearly 40 years old, old enough to know better. 3. You're the pastor."

I'm not saying being a pastor is a thankless job, but at times it can be difficult and discouraging. That's why pastors need our prayer, our support, our help, and our appreciation. We need to remind them how much they mean to us. We need to help our pastor know, deep in his heart, that he'll never be happy doing anything else, and that we don't really expect him to do everything else. The pastor is not an all-in-one, but he IS THE one that God has placed here to help purify us and lead us to do great things. God bless our pastor. God bless all pastors.