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People Spot Missile: Basic Purpose

There are so many claims on our time. Many of them are good. But, they may not be what is best for us. We have to determine with God’s help what our basic purpose is in life. Can we stay focused to fulfill that purpose?

I had an assignment to interview a pastor regarding his work at his church. He kept mentioning a very good charitable organization. In fact he talked more about that organization than he did the work of the church. Finally, I asked, “How much time do you give that organization?” He answered, “25 hours a week.” I responded, “That is very nice, but if I were a member of your board, I would make a motion that you be dismissed. You are being paid to be a full-time pastor.” He thanked me and said, “That was quite a cathartic moment.” There was nothing wrong with that organization. It was a great one. But it detracted from what should have been his primary purpose.

Again, what is your primary purpose? In addition there are a set of 4 basic priorities that need to be cared for by every Christian. As Christians we are to make sure that all is right between us and Jesus. He has to be first. Second, we need to take care of ourselves. We are to love our neighbor as we love ourselves. Jesus presupposes that we love ourselves. Simply stated, we can’t love others if we don’t love ourselves. Third, we have a responsibility to fulfill our family obligations in a competent manner. Fourth, we are to take care of the church.

If the first three of those items are in order, the church will be fine. Unfortunately, we frequently place the church where God belongs. That always leads to dysfunctional behavior both individually and corporately.

I have read that only 2-5% of Americans have a purpose in life. The rest are just drifting through life. That would include many believers as well. I was given an assignment to write my basic purpose in 10 words or less. This is it: Jim Moss exists to train Christian leaders to serve effectively. This is not an ideal one. It is just mine. I also think that a core purpose might change as the Lord leads us to different phases in our lives. My core purpose as a parish pastor was different than when I became a conference staff person. Write yourself a personal purpose statement in 10 words or less. _____

There are claims on your time. Will this claim help you fulfill your purpose? Will this claim help you complete your four basic priorities? If not, why are you doing it?

This is not easy today. There are so many good claims. They represent noble causes. But do they warrant your time? Only if they will help you fulfill your core purpose and the 4 basic priorities of life.

I believe many parents are pushing too many activities on very young children. I once heard a professional football player say he thought boys shouldn't play football before the 7th grade. I think he was right. So many children are burned out on sports and other activities by the time they reach 12. Maybe children don't need to be in many activities. Maybe they just need some quality time with their parents. Parents need to be very careful not to live vicariously through their children.

Why did I digress? Because, I see so many young families who have lost sight of their purpose and appropriate priorities and replaced them with frenetic activity.

What is your basic purpose? What do you have to do to fulfill it? What do you have to do to nurture your relationship with Jesus? What do you have to do to adequately take care of you? What do you have to do to take care of your family obligations? What do you have to do to take care of your church?

Most of the People Spot Missiles may be viewed at www.newlifeministries-nlm.org Click on People Spots.

*I am now available to present "Starting a New Service", "Churches Have Personalities", "People Spots", "Does Your Church Really Care About People?" and "A Christian Perspective on Leadership Skills." "Stewardship and Managing Debt" jm
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