

DUPLICATE

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LOCAL
CHURCH
LEADERS

Duplicating something is making an exact copy of the thing you are trying to replicate. Along with being in full-time ministry I am a real estate agent, so it is a common practice to make several copies of every contract I draw up. It keeps accountability, gives me protection, and, most important, if I were to strike it rich and decide I don't want to be a realtor anymore, someone at the office would be able to take over the contract. Likewise, in ministry it is important to duplicate yourself.

Someone once told me that training someone else in ministry is like working yourself out of a job. Some people don't like this concept because they want to be in charge and are intimidated by someone coming in and doing the same things they're doing. Yet we should not be afraid to duplicate ourselves. Why? Because we exist to serve in His kingdom, and because we serve, we want to be the most effective we can be. If that means letting someone play an instrument because they can play it better than you, then let them. If someone is better at administration than you are, let them thrive! Obviously they need to be spiritually ready and have the right spirit.

I love the passage in John 13 where Jesus bent down and washed the disciples' feet. I think in this instance, Jesus was showing the disciples two things: first, He came to serve, and second, He came to be an example to them that they were to serve. Jesus was duplicating Himself. Jesus didn't care that He wasn't going to preach the first sermon to establish the church. He let Peter do it. We have to always be training the next group of people to take over what we, with God at the front, have worked so hard to build.

What if you get called somewhere else to serve? Who will take your place? I am a musician, and one of the areas that sticks out to me most is when I see a church have a great band but it relies on one keyboard player, one drummer, one bassist, one guitarist, one tenor, and so on. When one of those people goes out of town for a while or is sick, the band is incomplete. This is true of all areas of ministry. If there is no training going on, you could potentially be setting your Hyphen group up for major gaps.

The most rewarding thing about duplicating yourself is watching someone who did not know they had the talent for an area of ministry grow and flourish in it. My wife and I teach music at the church, and in the past year we have seen numerous young adults begin to sing and play instruments. It is amazing to watch God using them and blessing their hard work, passion, and talent. But the opportunity had to be there for them. One guy started taking lessons with me, and he has grown a passion for playing the drums. Within six months he was playing in our main service. He was given an opportunity and now God is using him in a way he probably never dreamed possible.

You will be shocked when you give people a shot and invest in them how it will help your Hyphen ministry grow. Don't be intimidated and think you will lose your job. In fact, you should be investing in people as if you want them to be the next you! I can tell you with confidence that if you duplicate yourself it will only enhance the Kingdom and help the ministry you are passionate about growing.