

Too Many Pursuits

Is there a danger of too many pursuits? King Solomon, regarded as the wisest man history has ever known, answered that question affirmatively.

In Ecclesiastes 2:10-11, he writes: “Whatever my eyes desired I did not keep from them. I did not withhold my heart from any pleasure, for my heart rejoiced in all my labor; and this was my reward from all my labor. Then I looked on all the works that my hands had done and on the labor in which I had toiled; and indeed all was vanity and grasping for the wind. There was no profit under the sun.”

We can learn from Solomon’s costly mistakes. The king of Israel fervently pursued several unrelated goals in a vain attempt to satisfy himself, says author and speaker John C. Maxwell. “And by the time Solomon wrote these words, he had reached a high level of success, but still felt empty. The axiom remains true: If you chase two rabbits, both will escape.”

How about you? Do you have a way of determining your focus, based on what really matters or what really counts?

Maxwell offers a checklist to make decisions about where to invest your time and energy. When faced with a decision, he notes, ask yourself:

- Is this consistent with my priorities?
- Is this within my area of competence?
- Can someone else do it better?
- What do my trusted friends say?
- Do I have the time?

In a world confronting us with many demands and requests, these questions can be important guides.

– Beecher Hunter