

Frustration results when someone or something interferes with the achievement of legitimate, normally achievable goals. Goals are important because nearly everyone desires to be useful, creative, and productive. A sense of achievement is necessary to satisfaction and happiness. Much of the dissatisfaction and unhappiness in our technological society is related to boredom with work, and the sense of uselessness that results from doing a seemingly meaningless task. A production worker is like a cog in a machine. He has no need to be creative or even very productive. He must simply do his appointed task day in and day out. If he fails to show up for work someday, the company can replace him rather easily. This kind of work yields no sense of achievement and is very frustrating.

When a person goes into the ministry he is often motivated by a desire to do something truly worthwhile with his time and talents. He wants to achieve the high goal of glorifying God through his service to Jesus Christ. (The Christian factory worker also should desire to glorify God through his work.) Specifically, he wants to minister to people effectively so that as a result of his labor, people will be saved and will come to maturity in Christ.

If such a man is working in a church or mission field and for some reason is disassociated from the productive process, he is very likely to become frustrated. This can happen in a number of ways.

A man can be made a part of a ministerial team and yet not be allowed to minister to the congregation. This seems patently absurd. Why should a church call a man who is willing and able to minister and then have him painted into a corner where he can do little or nothing? How can such a thing happen?