

In an interview with Dr. Allan A. MacRae, who has had experience in teamwork for more than fifty years, this matter of objectives was reflected upon. Dr. MacRae said that one of the most important principles in maintaining harmony is "a determination to consider the objectives of the operation as primary and to do one's best to lay aside questions of personal prominence or personal recognition. This is a factor that enters into all teamwork, and errors on this point may be very subtle."

The minister who becomes petty in his thinking is one who has forgotten his purpose and has lost sight of his specific objectives. He is usually one who is endeavoring to meet some need in himself rather than that of others.

One reason conflicts disrupt the life of a ministerial team is that either the team's objectives are not clearly defined, or they have been lost in the shuffle. Infighting is more frequent among soldiers lingering behind the lines than among those in the thick of battle.

Communication directed toward another person should have as its purpose, building that person up according to their individual needs. It has been seen how sin has corrupted interpersonal relations, making the encounter with another person a contest to see who can gain the greater advantage. Love does the opposite. It seeks to discover the disadvantage (need) and does everything possible to change it to an advantage. In a cooperative ministry, this means I relate to my colleagues, not with the attitude, "What can I get you to do to make me more successful?", but, "What can I do for you to make you more successful in accomplishing what the Lord has called you to do?"