

JG: What are some of the other important elements in communication?

AP: Time is very important.

JG: Making time?

AP: Yes, quality time, making time for quality time, and not just formal time. I think if you just meet formally you get a lot done, but the informal times together, just a lunch or getting together that wasn't expected, not just to talk about anything, but just to get to know each other more, I think that is another important element. Honesty, I think, is important and that's what may be keeping a lot of people from getting close; an inability to open up and be honest.

JG: Certainly someone in the ministry ought to be able to be honest. Now, what do you mean by honesty?

AP: I hate to say this, but I haven't seen much of it. Maybe that's a harsh statement, but all sorts of innuendos and half-truths and wanting to carry out the program that they want, and doing half-truths just to make sure it gets done depending on who was being talked to.

JG: You mean in order to manipulate someone?

AP: Yes, that type of thing. I've seen that. Manipulation of parties and people and things, and not communicating in an openness to get it done, and pray about it, and sense the direction, but to manipulate and get the person going in a certain direction and these types of methods. It's almost scary to think of this in evangelical churches. Being in the pastorate myself, I just wonder where I'm going to be if this is a common practice. At least I've seen it in the churches that I've been in. I know of one case where there is a pastor who meets with his board every Friday morning. They meet at 6:00 or 7:00 a.m.; they have breakfast together; they go over Scriptures; they pray and they make decisions together concerning the church. That's what I would like to see once. I've never seen it.

JG: He meets with the board or with the staff?

AP: With the board. He doesn't have any staff, and therefore, he probably would do that if he had a staff. I know another church in our area from what the staff members said, that meets every morning at 7:00 a.m. with the senior pastor. They have devotions, somebody on the staff brings devotions, and they plan out the day, and communicate and this is the time they are to bring up things.