

JG: Well, you have had some good and bad experiences in teamwork. So far as your own future, would you desire to minister in the future in a team situation or would you prefer to work alone?

AP: At this point, I wouldn't mind working with a team depending on who the team was. I have worked very well with a lot of the associates we have had. Even when I had less position than they did, I've worked well with them on assignments and things. It depends on the team, it really does. I don't find myself being against teamwork at all just because I have had conflicts with senior pastors or that teamwork is down the drain and I want to go independent, but it does come to a time that, if you consider yourself called to the ministry and to be a pastor, that a smaller church with you carrying out the assignments could be a valid option. Other people may have the gift just to be a right hand man and to carry out all those assignments so I think it depends. I don't think there is any law. I think it depends on you and the situation as to whether that would be so, and for me I think it would depend on the situation. I'm looking for a pastorate myself where I would be the pastor, and I wouldn't mind having people under me of course. I don't think I would look for another assistant pastor position unless I really looked into it well, because of the conflicts that can and do develop between assistants and pastors. I've heard that from other assistants. Often that is a common thing. Unless you've got a good situation where you know that you are not meant to be the head pastor, and I've run into some people who do, they are the right hand support man to carry out the ministry, but unless you've got that there are going to be conflicts. Sometimes I've seen retired men take an assistant position, do the visitation, do a lot of the other assignments and there is no conflict, but I don't know if that is the situation or if that is just because they consider themselves that this is their God given position.

JG: Could it be that an older man whose ministry more or less is in the past, but still could have some good years left, that a man like that would not be a threat at all to the senior pastor, whereas a young man coming up with lots of energy and ideas, may be more threatening. Is that a possible reason for that?

AP: It could be.

JG: Is there some other reason?

AP: No, I guess that could be it. There could be a conflict depending on how people handle that. I found that in business quite a bit. People promising people under them. They don't want their position threatened. That could be a problem. I would have to think about it more to see if that was a common thing in these situations or not.