

Another aspect of this need for time and openness in communication is the fact that in some cases the time allotted is not well used. There is no effort to talk about basic issues and in some cases these are purposefully avoided. In too many Christian organizations there is a list of taboos that you do not dare bring up to those in leadership. These are either blind spots or tender spots that are avoided and evaded by those in control.

An observant leader does not need a seismograph to detect the tremors of discontent that such avoidance causes. Like a person living on the edge of the San Andreas fault, he tries to ignore the possibilities for a major quake. Few escape when neglect becomes a habitual pattern in their style of leadership.

The wise team leader will pay solemn heed to the observation made by Warren S. Benson in a paper delivered to the Evangelical Free Church:

In this writer's judgment, the primary weakness in church staff relationships is this neglect of taking time to worship, pray, plan, and share together.²⁸

Conflicts Related to Status

The Gospels record an incident when the disciples disputed over their status in the Kingdom of God (Matt. 18:1-14; Mark 9:33-37; Luke 9:46-48). Mark explains that Jesus asked the disciples what the big discussion was about on the road to Capernaum. No one spoke up

²⁸Warren S. Benson, "Multiple Staff Relationships--The Associate's Point of View," unpublished paper.