

Withdrawal can be used as a means to manipulate others. This is when the person blocked leaves a meeting or a job knowing that the others will come and beg him to return. In seeking to persuade him to come back, he is offered the thing he was blocked from obtaining. The block is thus removed and he returns (acting reluctant, but only for effect.)



Another form that withdrawal takes is the silent retreat. There are those who just do not want any trouble. They flee from conflict situations like birds put to flight at the report of a gun. Such people usually have an excuse for their departure, but it is likely to be rapid and with little or no explanation. It is also likely that this person will bounce from one position to another until a non-demanding niche is found.

There are cases, however, where a silent retreat is very honorable and effective. The person withdrawing may simply realize that he is a square peg that is supposed to fit into a round hole. That is, he comes to realize that his view of the ministry or his doctrinal views are incompatible with those of his associates. He also comes to realize that an amiable compromise is impossible. It becomes clear that a withdrawal would be strategic in that it would allow for greater unity within the team and a happier situation for the one leaving. The differences are never discussed. The parting is cordial and the relationship continues on a friendly level.