

felt frustrated & unable to cope with the person's problems so they got rid of the problem by getting rid of the person. They just did the natural thing, when what they should have done is something a little bit more supernatural if they'd really been depending on the Lord & desperate with Him! That's what made them immature, young leaders in the first place, they weren't utterly dependent on the Lord & desperate with Him for the answers!

4. When you have some of these super-duper whiz kids & smart-alecks, they're usually not very easy to handle. They often want to be the leaders themselves, & think they should be, or at least they want to be "armchair generals" of some kind. They don't exactly always want to do all the hard work of a leader, but they would like to be in some sort of an advisory capacity, & therefore it's difficult for people to deal with them.

WINNING BACK BACKSLIDERS!

5. We have to look at both sides of these situations, & there's a certain amount of blame on both sides. But when we realise that a serious mistake has been made & perhaps someone has been excommunicated who maybe shouldn't have been, I certainly think somebody should try to rectify it. We should try to win & restore our brothers when we have offended them, though like it says, it's usually pretty hard to do.—Pro.18:19. But it doesn't say it's impossible, & we have won a lot of brothers & sisters back into the Family.

6. Of course, they loved the Lord, & they knew that the Word was right & that the Lord had not failed them. A lot of them probably realised that their being out of the Family had a lot to do with the immaturity of their former leaders. But they still knew that the Lord & the Family were right, & they were willing to forgive their leadership, as well as repent of their own sins.

7. But not everybody should necessarily go out & try to win these backsliders & former members back into the Family. Often, they're full of all kinds of doubts, & you have to sit there & listen to all their complaints & grievances & bitternesses poured out about everybody, including the top leadership. It's a tough job to win such folks back, & it should be done with team-

work & prayer & counsel & permission. "We then that are strong ought to bear the infirmities of the weak!"—Romans 15:1.

8. Usually you've had some kind of indication that they want to return to some amount of fellowship, or they've reached out in some way before you try to win them back. We usually have some hope that they can be restored, or the Lord will lay them real strongly on somebody's heart.—Or maybe you see them on the street & they act real friendly & they show a sincere interest in the Word. There's usually some indication that there's at least some spark of life there. We just can't start going down the list of all the backsliders we've ever had & checking them out one by one! I think to save all our time, the Lord would lead us to certain people who He wants to at least give another chance to, or who deserve an apology.

9. Some people just can't seem to survive in the Family, not because it's so much their fault, but it's the fault of others. I don't know if I'd have survived & made it in a lot of our Homes! Let's face it, to survive in our Family takes a lot of courage, a lot of conviction & a lot of guts!—As well as a lot of faith & willingness to do things sometimes that you maybe don't even know are of the Lord!

10. I hope I'm not being too hard on our leadership, but that's been my impression some of the time. Our people have to go through an awful lot to live in the Family! So in some ways, I don't blame some of them for not wanting to live under some of our leadership.—Particularly some of our past leadership, like the Chain! A lot depends on who the leadership is & what Home they're in.

WHAT TO DO WITH INDEPENDENT PEOPLE!

11. Back to what I was saying about why some of these people have left or been kicked out of the Family: Some of these high-powered independent personalities have caused a lot of problems!—And as a result, their leaders haven't always quite known how to handle them. Many times the people were actually good people, they sincerely wanted to serve the Lord & they loved the Family, but they just had problems living under their