

WINNING THE RIGHT TO BE HEARD

This important part of counseling must not be under-emphasized, or the effectiveness of solid counseling will be undermined. No young person will open up to a counselor who has not taken the time to be his friend. This is winning the right to be heard, for we will always value the advice of a friend.

WAYS TO WIN THE RIGHT TO BE HEARD

1. Be a good listener. Find out the interests of the various young people and do what you can to promote their interests.
2. Be available. Let the young people know that you are looking forward to being with them. This availability is best shown in attitude, not mere words.
3. Bear with the young people in their idiosyncrasies. Sometimes it is easy for us adults to look “down our noses” at some of the attitudes and interests of the young people. This will hinder our ministry with them.
4. Exercise tough love. Young people want to look at you as their leader. They expect you to act like a leader and not “one of the gang.” This is sometimes hard for young leaders.
5. Be prayerful. Only God can prepare the hearts of these dear kids, so pray to Him that He will open the way. Pray for each young person by name.
6. Be positive. When you live before these kids, let the love of the Lord Jesus shine brightly through you.
7. Be yourself. Don't try to copy another's personality. Let the Holy Spirit individually direct your abilities to be used to present the Savior.