

- GM: Well, I think it would be kind of like John saying in his first epistle, "If any man say he has no sin, he is a liar," and for anyone to live together with other people, or to have a team in Christian work and to say there is never any conflict, I find that hard to believe. We expect this. We know that it is going to be there, and one of the things that we deal with with those that are coming on a team is that this is a big potential area that they are going to have to face. Conflict can come from a variety of reasons. It can be personality, of course, which is a strong factor in all of us. There can be personality conflicts. One of the things that we have done to help resolve this, which has been a real help, is to show the strength of our uniqueness, rather than trying to minimize it by saying that if we're going to work together than we all have to be alike. I think that when we realize that a person can be different than we are, and that doesn't have to effect our working together and our love and our unity for each other, this is a tremendous thing. Otherwise, people feel the pressure, especially if the leader is a strong person. They feel pressure that they have to be like he is, or they've got to do things the way I do them. While as a leader, or course, what I do will certainly probably effect them, and that can be good, but yet for them not to feel that they have to be the same way I am, or they have to get up early like I do, or they have to have family prayers like we do at a certain time of the day in order to be spiritual, but that they can be unique and yet greatly used of God and we can work together in wonderful love and unity. This has been one very helpful thing.
- JG: It's true, isn't it, that some leaders are not willing to accept the uniqueness of people that work under them? They want people to conform.
- GM: Yes, I think so. One of the biggest helps to me in studying the Scripture in this area was to realize that unity is not conformity, but unity is mutual headship. In other words, the members of my body work together in perfect unity for one reason and one reason only and that is because they have the same head. If you cut my head off then my body would not be able to work together in unity. But unity does not mean conformity. It doesn't mean that every time my right hand comes to my mouth to feed it, my left hand has to come up too. That would be ridiculous. Or every time my right foot goes forward while running, my left foot does too. No, that would be conformity and it would be very crippling. Unity is perhaps my left hand going back while my right hand goes forward when I'm running, because it keeps me perfectly balanced. The only way, and I never really stopped to think how I should run when I was growing up, my head just told me because I'm plugged into that system, and then I'm going to work together in perfect unity. I think that we have a beautiful parallel to that in