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Our friend Ed White, who led the Spring Seminar in March, recommends the reading of *The Leadership Labyrinth: Negotiating the Paradoxes of Ministry* by Judson Edwards (Smyth and Helwys Publishers, 2005). Edwards discusses the following facets of the leadership labyrinth:

1. **The Leadership Paradox:** The harder you try to control a group, the less control you will have.
2. **The Calendar Paradox:** The busier you are, the less you will accomplish.
3. **The Relationship Paradox:** The people who like you most will be the ones you try least to please.
4. **The Anxiety Paradox:** The less you worry about the church, the better it will do.
5. **The Stewardship Paradox:** The more you preach about money, the less you will receive.
6. **The Preaching Paradox:** The more you preach, the less you will have to say.
7. **The Negotiation Paradox:** The most serious issues cannot be handled seriously.
8. **The Learning Paradox:** You will only learn more of what you already know.
9. **The Power Paradox:** The weakest people in the church tend to wield the most power.
10. **The Issues Paradox:** The issues you most want to push are beyond pushing.
11. **The Decision Paradox:** People seldom have to choose between right and wrong.
12. **The Influence Paradox:** The most powerful people in your life will not be powerful people.
13. **The Controversy Paradox:** The issue you are arguing about is not the issue at all.
14. **The Confrontation Paradox:** Direct confrontation seldom confronts the problem.
15. **The Intimacy Paradox:** Distance often helps people more than closeness.
16. **The Ministry Paradox:** The more you try to help people, the more helpless people become.
17. **The Helper's Paradox:** The best way to help others is to take care of yourself.
18. **The Organization Paradox:** The more organized the church becomes, the less it accomplishes.
19. **The Problems Paradox:** Problems are not really problems at all.
20. **The Time Paradox:** The less important the issue, the more time you will spend on it.
21. **The Attitude Paradox:** Only pastors who are having fun can seriously proclaim the Gospel.

How many of these paradoxical realities impact your experience? As colleagues in ministry, perhaps we can gain from discussing among ourselves these insights offered by Edwards' provocative book.

Grace and peace,

George