



# Human Optimization

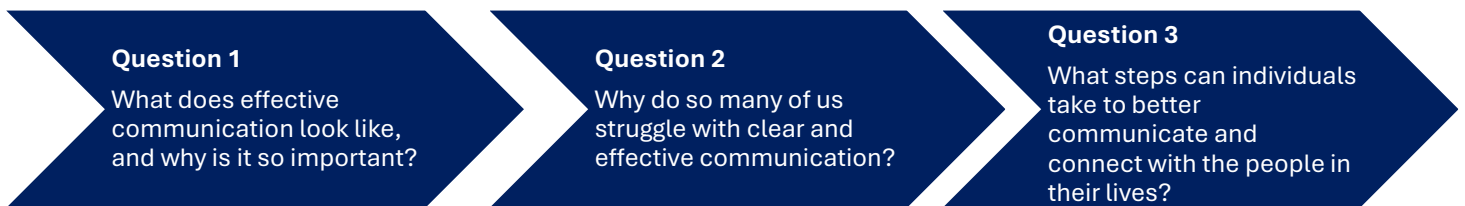
## Pod Club Discussion Questions



### E8 The Power of Connection: How to Communicate Effectively with Anyone

Guest: Dustin Morse, Senior Vice President of Communications and Public Affairs, Minnesota Twins Baseball Club

*The three big questions explored in the podcast:*



### Discussion Questions:

1. Dustin Morse defines communication broadly, including spoken word, written word, body language, and even how one presents themselves. How often do you consider these non-verbal aspects when you're communicating?
2. The "C's" of effective communication (clarity, conciseness, completeness, correctness, considerateness) were discussed. Which of these do you find most challenging to consistently apply in your own communication, and why?
3. The podcast highlights that interpersonal conflict often stems from a "lack of perspective or a lack of communication." Think about a recent disagreement where lack of perspective or communication may have contributed. How might a different communication approach have changed the outcome?
4. Dustin shares his experience with athletes who struggle with public speaking due to social anxiety, contrasting it with those who might "blow off" communication. Do you tend to be more on the side of over-analyzing and fearing communication, or underestimating its importance? How does this tendency impact your effectiveness?
5. The discussion emphasizes the importance of active listening and seeking feedback, even when it's difficult. What strategies do you use to ensure you're truly listening and open to feedback, especially when you might disagree with the message?
6. The call to action suggests picking one communication tip (e.g., active listening, empathy, nonverbal skills) and intentionally focusing on it during your next three conversations. Select

one tip to practice in conversations this week. Report back to the group to let them know how easy or challenging this was for you and why.

7. Dustin mentions that in his role, he often has to "read the room" and be considerate of the audience's emotional state. How do you assess the emotional climate of a conversation or meeting, and how does that influence your communication style?
8. The episode touches on how technology and social media have changed communication, sometimes leading to "short form" and less nuanced interactions. How do you balance the efficiency of modern communication tools with the need for deeper, more effective connection in your personal and professional life?
9. Based on this episode, what is one small change you are going to make to help improve in this area. How are you going to keep yourself accountable to that and measure your success? (Be sure to keep it simple, start small, and make it very clear).