

conference, or a wedding. The person who would wear a tee shirt, dungarees, and sandals to all of these occasions simply does not understand what is appropriate.

2. Clothes for speaking should be becoming, that is, befitting the dignity of the office and the message of the minister of Jesus Christ.

But how can this concept of the propriety or impropriety of certain styles and forms of dress be reconciled with the desire to actualize one's Christian liberty?

We need to ask ourselves the question: "Which takes priority: the actualization of my freedom or the effectiveness of the message of the Word of God among those people to whom I am called to minister?"

We must reason with ourselves: "If my style of dress distracts the attention of the people from my message, so that they scarcely hear what I say, and what they do hear they do not take seriously, then what is the point of dressing in this way? Is it just an ego trip? Am I trying to get them to accept me just as I am, in the full expression of my freedom? But then what becomes of my message? Does it become a secondary consideration? If they do not get my message, what's the point of it all?"

At this juncture a would-be minister of the gospel must make a decision: either he must change his style of dress to reflect the image his culture has formed concerning dress which is appropriate and becoming to a minister of the gospel, or he must find a culture or sub-culture in which his personal preference of style in dress is acceptable for a minister, or he must forget about the ministry as a vocation.

This may be a difficult decision and may involve some difficult choices, but one can come through it if he thinks through and orders his priorities accordingly.