

You Don't Look Like A Preacher

Linville Dunaway, Corinth Christian Church

Years ago a man at church asked me to visit his father who was not a Christian. He was sick and in the hospital so I went to see him. I introduced myself and my wife and said that I went to church with their son. We talked for about 45 minutes and had a pretty good visit. Then the wife asked me to tell her again who I was. When I said my name and that I was the preacher, she said, "Well, you don't look like a preacher."

Look like a preacher? I wonder what one is supposed to look like. People have their opinions on this subject, like they do on everything else. Their opinion might be based on someone that they have known, or even someone that they have seen on TV. The descriptions that I have heard certainly have no basis in scripture. Why do folks form an ideal vision of what a preacher is supposed to look and act like? Isn't a preacher human, like everyone else, or is he to be some kind of super Christian?

A man that I once worked with told me about his church and the search for a preacher. He, the preacher, was to be educated, but able to talk to the 'common people.' He was to be old enough to appeal to the elderly, yet, young enough to relate to the young people. The preacher was to be dignified but humble. You name it and the man that they sought was to fit the bill. I thought to myself that no one could fit all their requirements. Then, people worry about looks.

One preacher said that he was told that a preacher had to be neat, clean shaven, and always wear a suit and tie. Remember, he is to look good and be an example for everyone. No one can show in scripture that it is a sin for a preacher to wear a beard. Yet, many think that it is a terrible crime. Nowhere does the Bible say that a coat and tie is necessary to preach. These are traditions of man and not commands of God.

Has it come to be that looks are the most important thing to people? One woman said years ago as she left a church, "I was going to be baptized tonight, but that preacher was too ugly." You may think that is just a story, but it is a true story. How serious was she about

repenting of sins and becoming a Christian? Because someone looks good doesn't mean, or guarantee, that they are right. **Matthew 7:15-16**, "Beware of false prophets, which come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly they are ravening wolves. Ye shall know them by their fruits. Do men gather grapes of thorns, or figs of thistles?" The Lord spoke of those who looked good yet, were false prophets. They looked like the people thought they should, but were not of God.

The Lord knew that people were easily deceived so he warned us to be sure of whom we followed. **2 Corinthians 11:13-15**, "For such are false apostles, deceitful workers, transforming themselves into the apostles of Christ. And no marvel; for Satan himself is transformed into an angel of light. Therefore it is no great thing if his ministers also be transformed as the ministers of righteousness; whose end shall be according to their works." Remember Satan is a deceiver and works to mislead God's people. Preachers are different from one another, just like everyone else. **1 John 4:1** tells us to "try the spirits." If your preacher is serving God and doing what is right, don't be so concerned about how he looks.

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This is a dramatized version of facts taken from the Book of Exodus intending to show some of the customs of these ancient and traditional times.

MOSES AND PLAGUES OF EGYPT
AS MOSES PROPHESED, ALL THE FIRST BORN IN EGYPT HAVE DIED IN THE NIGHT BECAUSE PHARAOH WOULD NOT LET ISRAEL GO TO SERVE THE LORD IN THE WILDERNESS, NOW...

MY SON! MY SON! MY ELDEST...

HE WHO WAS TO HAVE SAT ON THE THRONE OF EGYPT— DEAD!!

PHARAOH AND ALL EGYPT IS PLUNGED IN GRIEF...

SUMMON MOSES AND AARON— BRING THEM TO ME!

WHAT IS THIS THAT THOU HAST DONE?!

AND, IN THE DEAD OF NIGHT, ONCE AGAIN MOSES AND AARON APPEAR BEFORE PHARAOH!

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