

The important thing is the heart. The important thing is how definitely, how completely, how fully we serve the Lord and how fully we strive to have our hearts such as He wants. But it is also important that we serve the Lord effectively. The most effective, as far as our effectiveness is concerned, part of our service to the Lord, is our serving him in relation to other people. He wants us to learn the other part of the verse: man looks at the outward appearance.

How disappointed I am when someone graduates from the seminary with knowledge, much knowledge, that he could use to God's glory and with a desire to serve the Lord and yet on account of failure to think about the outward appearance which affects mankind, he fails to have a fraction of the influence that his character, his love to God, his knowledge should enable him to have. I think as a vital part of our service to the Lord we should remember man looks at the outward appearance, and we a duty therefore to think about outward appearance because many people do not listen to us or look at us if the outward appearance, the outward impression is not effective.

I remember one man who graduated from our classes years ago who was in my class in public speaking he talked as if his mouth was full of mush. He was hard to understand what he said. I tried to give him== to get him to speak more clearly. Then I gave him Longfellow's poem: Thou too sail on O ship of state, sail on O Union strong and great." He could recite that so clearly that every syllable, every sound came out very clearly to understand. Then he would (mumble mumble). I said to him whenever you speak anywhere get off to the side and recite a stanza or two of this and get yourself to speaking clearly. People will pay far more attention to the message that you give.

He went out. Preached for a time. A few people who took the bother to listen to him closely were tremendously blessed. Most people wouldn't make the effort. Then he went to a college and he taught there. Teaching in a college there were a few students who recognized his great knowledge, his understanding, the excellent things he gave in his classes and were thrilled by it. But most of them wouldn't bother! The result was his electives dropped lower and lower and the college decided it could not afford to keep him for the small number of students who wanted to get what he had. Though there were a few who looking not so much on the outward appearance as others did were greatly interested in his great knowledge and understanding. The next I heard he was in Arizona running a motel. God looks at the heart. Man looks at the outward appearance. Let us pray God that our hearts may be such that he will look at it in favor. That he will constantly help us to increase in our sanctification, to increase in our love of God and love of man, that we may accomplish more for him, and be as He wants us to be.

But one of the great parts of our service to Him is our