

(judgments) for he may be expressing the fullness of his heart. But our normal speech and normal message changes from day to day--in its expression--and certainly our utterances in worship may be enriched, altered, etc.

- e. The silent brethren...we are not going to pick on them for one should be thankful for all who are truly the Lord's. But if there are too many who are too silent it takes from the purpose of a corporate meeting for worship and it leads, in time, to the directed service in which everything is well done but in which the individual worshipper has slightly more importance than spectatorship.

Now, it is not good to be irritated with your brethren so be careful that no barriers are erected over any of these things. But, at the same time, prayerfully seek to be a brother who advances others in the testimony and praise of the Lord.

6.8

- 2. Brief notes on some distractions...and these are often more in the mind than in reality. Learning to overcome them is, I think, important.

- a. Children...of the more active sort. This is a thorny problem. The writer likes them in the meeting and thinks the nursery should be used only when necessary and he also thinks the fathers should "take turns" at times in an assembly nursery so that the mothers do not "miss" all the meetings! The only children that ever bothered me were my own...but some persons are susceptible to the noise of children. A few notes on tape may help but remember this: a noisy child in the meeting is more easily dealt with than a noisy child who does not come.
- b. Creatures...like insects, etc. The elders should, in our culture, at least, charge the trustees or deacons to do their best to keep out the wasps and other things that have people watching them when they should be thinking of the Lord. In spite of our idealism, it is hard to think of the Lord when, in the spirit of Robert Burns, you can see a giant wasp sitting on the head of a brother in the row in front of you.
- c. Strange behaviour...too much coughing, etc. I do not think we need a special front for the worship meeting. But I do think one must weigh almost every action to make certain it does not distract from the true purpose of the meeting.

6.9

- 3. Suggestion: Most problems may be overcome with a little effort and some spiritual discernment. But one must try...and in such an important setting as the meeting for worship a real try is demanded.