

But why cannot misfits, if not too glaring and extensive, be remedied more often than they are? Now and then we pastors show ourselves to be misfits, by rather brave and conspicuous display of our doctrinal wrinkles. These are sightly, interesting, exhilarating, and clear evidence of a good fit to some. They are unsightly, disturbing, annoying and bring fear of misfit to others. Sometimes the pastor is not aware that his "peculiar views," and "advanced thought," are wrinkles in the mental and spiritual view of some of his best friends, and staunchest supporters of the church. Sometimes he is aware of it, and rather chuckles inwardly to see the almost rosy faces, certainly the perplexed ones, his pet wrinkles cause in his congregation. He soon finds by indirect reports and indications that while he has many points of excellent fit, the few wrinkles in the region of misfit which he is displaying quite disproportionately, are making the most impression, and a discouraging uncomfortable and offensive impression, upon many hearers. But he likes his wrinkles, his doctrinal and practical hobbies. Why should he not be open in displaying the wrinkle and in riding the hobbies. If we do this very persistently, we only prove ourselves misfits, and bring discomfort, restlessness and unnecessary dissatisfaction to devout souls; besides sooner or later precipitating disastrous division resulting in permanent and injurious loss. But why need this be? May not a pastor be courteously informed of the ill effect, (he is sure to hear any good effect upon admiring friends,) of his unnecessarily frequent display of his wrinkles. He need not be dishonest to peculiar convictions by now and then withholding for a time repeated and bold expression of the same. Fond of his wrinkles he may be, but it is only common sense for him to keep them out of sight when too frequent display of them hinders the progress of good pulpit and pastoral influence.

This brings me to mention the lack-of-common-sense-wrinkle, that so often proves us to be misfits. This is most troublesome. It is like some wrinkles in poorly fitting garments—never discovered by ourselves. Possibly we may be furnished with an array of mirrors in front, at side and in the rear, in the shape of faithful friends, loved ones in the home, a loving, gentle, faithful deacon, who will discover to us this wrinkle by kindly suggestion

now and then, that we may see ourselves somewhat as others see us. If so let us be thankful. But, alas! this wrinkle is longest, ugliest, most conspicuous often when we think and declare it is no wrinkle at all. How the people suffer then! What scourges of misfits are we when we display lack-of-common-sense! The remedy, the smoothing out or concealing of this wrinkle is not so easy. Some glaring instances of this, resulting in the wrecking of churches in a short time, can only be treated by the heroic method. Men whose lack of common sense, with other unsightly wrinkles, ruins our causes, should be understood to be misfits for any and all Congregational pulpits, and will be sooner or later.

But we hear now and then of pastors, "financially without much of a conscience." Such men too should be misfits anywhere. This is more serious than a wrinkle. It is a painful pinch. If a pastor cannot meet financial obligations because he cannot depend upon prompt payment by his people, it is the people who are responsible for the pinch—and the pastor may suffer intensely, *because* financially, he is keenly conscientious. This is very important. But any man who occupies a pulpit on Sunday, and is careless about paying his dues on Monday, or keeping any business promises, must look for disaster, not only to his financial affairs, but to his whole ministerial and personal influence. But this pinch should not and need not be long endured, as a rule. Good friends should frankly and kindly help the pastor by suggestion, and even warning—and if the pastor is not a misfit by lack of common sense, there can be a remedy—and the pain can be reduced, at least.

Another distressing pinch from, misfit in the average pastorate, comes from the "arbitrary-and-imperious-in-his-way" pastor. As soon as this pinch begins to be felt, it should have serious and determined attention from the proper authorities. Our people are naturally so willing we should go ahead, make all plans, carry them out, and not only lead but project our way always as the best one—that we are in danger of lording it over God's heritage. If there is anything incongruous and offensive, it is a Congregational Pope, in the person of a pastor. Bad enough when the man that pays the most money always insists upon having his own way—worse when a pastor becomes im-