Hair Length for Men and Boys

Gordon B. Hinckley, *Ensign*, May 1996, 48–49. Be clean in dress and manner. I do not expect you to look like missionaries all of the time. But let me say that the clean and conservative dress and grooming of our missionaries has become as a badge of honor recognized wherever they go. The age in which we are living now has become an age of sloppy dress and sloppy manners. But I am not so concerned about what you wear as I am that it be clean. Remember Joseph F. Smith’s dream. As he was hurrying toward the mansion, he had a little bundle wrapped in a handkerchief. When he bathed himself and opened it, he found that it contained clean clothing. Whenever you administer or pass the sacrament, look your very best. Be sure of your personal cleanliness.

Boyd K. Packer, *The Holy Temple*, p. 74. On occasions, when I have performed a marriage in the temple, there has been one there to witness it who obviously has paid little attention to the counsel that the Brethren have given about dress and grooming, about taking care not to emulate the world in the extremes of style in clothing, in *hair length and arrangement*, etc. I have wondered why it is that if such a person was mature enough to be admitted to the temple he would not at once be sensible enough to know that the Lord could not be pleased with those who show obvious preference to follow after the ways of the world.

How could a recommended member attend the temple in clothing that is immodest or worldly? How could one groom himself in such a way that the *style of hair is not in keeping with refinement and dignity*?

Boyd K. Packer, *The Holy Temple*, p. 73. I have been puzzled and a little saddened at times … to find that some have come to witness marriages or to attend a session in the temple dressed as though they were going to a picnic or an athletic event.

The privilege to enter the temple deserves more from us than that. … put on clean clothing, however inexpensive. We should dress in such a way that we might comfortably attend a sacrament meeting or a gathering that is proper and dignified.

The First Presidency, David O. McKay, Hugh B. Brown, N. Eldon Tanner, letter dated March 17, 1969. Dear Brethren:

We reiterate the instruction given in our letter of August 10, 1967 that sisters should be advised against wearing slacks or mini-skirts when going to the temple to receive their endowments or to do ordinance work for the dead.

There are also those of our brethren who sometimes go to the temple without a necktie or jacket and who otherwise are not properly groomed.

Temple patrons should bear in mind that they are visiting the House of the Lord and that they should wear clothing suitable for the occasion, such as they would wear when attending a sacrament meeting on Sunday.

We suggest that when interviewing brethren and sisters for recommendations you kindly remind them of the sanctity of the temple and the propriety of being modestly dressed and properly groomed when they prepare to enter the temples of the Lord.

Marvin J. Ashton, Conference Report, October 1976, p. 125. To those who would say, “It’s what you really are inside that counts, not the *length of the hair or beard,*” I would say, “If this is true, and I agree it is, why run the risk of looking like something you’re not?” … Self-image is often enhanced by the clothing worn … To be over-dressed or immodestly dressed may create wrong impressions and improperly identification. Improper clothing may also lead to wrong actions.
any one of you go home and let you hair grow and wear sloppy clothes and do ordinary things and break the Sabbath or any other of the laws of God…. The Lord knew what he was doing when he impressed the Brethren to have you be neat and tidy and clean in the mission field.…

Sometimes we find a returned missionary who lets his hair grow long immediately. He has been free of the world for a couple of years, now he would like to taste that “sweet” world, if you can call it that. We find that some young men who return home from their missions put on their overalls the very first day they get home, and that old sweater that was ready to throw away before they left. They like to put on all those things. It always pleases me when I go to a community and I see the returned missionaries still well dressed, well groomed, and have their testimony and are eager to give the message that they had been teaching all those years.…

I want you to know it is hard for me to be disappointed, and I rejoice in the blessings of the Lord daily. But a few things disappoint me occasionally and one of them is the returned missionary who, after two years of taking great pride in how he looks and what he represents, returns to this campus or some other place to see how quickly he can let his hair grow, how fully he can develop a moustache and long sideburns and push to the very margins of appropriate grooming, how clumpy his shoes get, how tattered his clothes,…. how close to being grubby he can get without being refused admittance to the school. That, my young returned missionary brethren, is one of the great disappointments in my life.

Neal A. Maxwell, A More Excellent Way, p. 127. Jesus made it crystal clear that the outer appearances and inner feelings must, ultimately, coincide.

Vaughn J. Featherstone, Stockholm Area Conference, August 1974, p. 74. … fellows … we know the reason you sometimes let your hair grow too long. It’s because you are pure in heart. But please do not do that; do not let your hair grow too long, where it looks feminine…. Let’s follow the pattern of the Brethren; let’s dress the way they do…. It’s a sin [long hair].”