

happiness can be brought on the students who can't "measure up"! Remember, the trends are set by the world and are often not worthy to be copied. Modesty is not a consideration in their designs; in fact we all know that the opposite is true. Just page through the catalogs; some pictures almost make one blush.

When asked to write an article in favor of uniforms, I hesitated because I was not at all sure that I was in favor of them. However, since talking to Christian school personnel who have made the change successfully, I believe it could be an improvement. Especially now that we are more and more seeing the return of the short, narrow skirts and the sloppy and baggy unkempt look! I am very concerned that maybe we are on the way toward the problems of indecency we experienced with our children wearing extremely short skirts in the early 70's. I surely hope not!

In making a decision with regard to our children's dress, whether uniforms or otherwise,

modesty must have a high priority so that also in this area of their lives they also glorify God. We know that the dress, also of our younger daughters in the elementary grades, must be modest as well as neat. And who will teach them to dress modestly if it is not we parents? They will be building on what they are taught as they grow older. Our children must show in their dress, as well as in their behavior and attitude, that they belong to Christ. And we parents must do all in our power to promote these Christian attitudes and appearances. Perhaps uniforms would help to promote such attitudes.

Parents, I think the *Perspectives* staff would like to hear from you on this subject. Why don't you express *your* thoughts concerning uniforms? Or maybe you would like to discuss this at a Parent-Teacher Association meeting. I am sure there are parents out there who would like to give it a try. It sounds pretty good to me.

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Uniforms-Nyet

Mary Beth Lubbers

"...they (Russian prisoners) would be ordered to leave their leather coats, their Romanov sheepskin coats, their woolen sweaters, their suits of fine wool,

their felt cloaks, their leather boots, their felt boots...and after passing through (a different door) they received black cotton breeches, field shirts, camp

quilted jackets without pockets, and pigskin shoes.

“ ‘Where are our things?’ they cried.

“ ‘In camp nothing belongs to you. Here in camp we have communism.’ ”

The Gulag Archipelago
Aleksandr Solzhenitsyn, p. 583.

This, then, is the issue. Should our parents, within the written or understood school dress code, have the freedom to choose their child's school clothes, appropriate to his age group, season of the year, and personality? Or should uniform apparel be mandatory in our school systems?

To the latter, I say no. Each Christian is a unique entity with individual tastes, habits, and desires. Within the framework of God's Word this is healthy. Moreover, Jehovah has never made commandment about these in-different matters. Why then should we make laws and precepts concerning things not prohibited by Scripture? It seems to me that godly parents (mothers) must exercise their sanctified judgment and see to it that their children are dressed for school modestly and discreetly. . . with a wide range of differences.

For those who espouse the concept of school uniform dress, I take the liberty to ask these few questions:

1. Are stockings and shoes

also to be uniform?

2. Will make-up (with older girls) also be uniform? Cover Girl, perhaps, and not the more expensive Clinique?

3. Will hair be one mandatory length? Straight, I would surmise, and not bobbed, curled, or “plaited?”

4. Will all accessories, such as scarves, barrettes, earrings, belts, jewelry, and other ornamentation, be of one kind? Or, perhaps, banned altogether?

5. Will outer apparel also be uniform?

If the answer to any or all of these is “no,” then I fail to see the “social leveling” that I assume would be, at least for the most part, the purpose of uniform dress in school.

Remember, too, there are literally hundreds of ways to circumvent a uniform dress code, and I am confident that an ingenious student will find all of them. It has been documented that regulation dress is one sure way to bring out a student's creativity with what he can do with a uniform. And schools which require uniforms are plagued with day-by-day decisions about them.

From the viewpoint of a teacher I can make this observation. I rarely, if ever, can detail a child's wardrobe on a given day, but I can remember if a child is groomed and clean, I do observe

