

The Lord wants us to agree on the vital matters. He wants us to push the vital matters. Yet on the one hand today you have the Roman Catholic Church in which there is this apparent tremendous unity. It used to be a definite unity in which you were required to subscribe to a good many individual things. And you have our Protestant church divided up into many denominations with different views on ceremonies, different views on certain doctrinal points. And I think -- I don't think we should have one big church.

But I do think it is tragic that Christians should put arguing over secondary matters in first place instead of working together in order to advance the gospel of Christ.

I heard a story once of an Englishman. (I don't know whether this is a true picture of English character, but at least it's a story they told of an Englishman). He was sitting in a hotel in front of an open fireplace. Another man was sitting across from him. The Englishman said to the man, Sir would you please tell me your name. The man said, I don't think it's any of your affair. The Englishman sat there a little longer and he said, Say, will you please tell me your name! He said, Why do you care about my name? Then the Englishman got real excited and said, Sir, please tell me your name! I must know your name because I must speak to you! Then the man said, Alright, call it Smith. What do you want? The Englishman said, Mr. Smith, the back of your coat has caught fire!

That's exactly the attitude of so many of us when we are afraid to speak to somebody about the Lord. We are afraid we'll be repulsed. We're afraid somebody will look down on us. We're afraid we'll be embarrassed, and we hold out like this apocryphal story of the man who would not tell the other man of his danger. I tell you people are in far worse danger than having their coat on fire, if they are in danger of hell fire. If they are in danger of eternal destruction.

If we who know Christ, and know the word of life, are not ready as Paul was to do everything possible to bring them to a knowledge of Christ. To conform on minor matters when it is necessary. To do what is necessary in order to be effective witnesses for Christ.

May God enable us to be not preparing for a profession, not even preparing to receive a livelihood although it is the duty of a Christian to provide a livelihood for those who are furnishing them with the Word of life, but may our primary objective be to reach souls that they may grow in the knowledge of Christ.

I wish that from our group three -- there would be those who would have a vision like Mr. Eckelman to go into a university town and reach students there and to build up among them men with