

3-2-1970

From/To: W.E. Stephens, Jr. (Chalk's reply filed first)

W.E. Stephens, Jr.

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March 2, 1970

Mr. W.E. Stephens, Jr.  
W.E. Stephens Manufacturing Co.  
306-308 Second Avenue, North  
Nashville, Tennessee

Dear Bill:

I appreciated your willingness to correspond with a "long-hair" after our recent visit in Nashville. I was, however, seriously alarmed at the fact that even though you confessed your prejudice, you continued to be guided by it in the remarks you made in your letter. I was even more seriously alarmed at the fact that you would allow this kind of prejudice toward me to be expressed in your letter to Jerry Campbell. Unfortunately, I don't know you well enough to know when you are serious and when you aren't. I have a sneaking suspicion, however, that you are more serious than your own spiritual maturity ought to allow you to be.

My understanding of First Corinthians 8 and Romans 14 is that I have no responsibility to you, a "strong Christian," regarding my hair. Especially is this so when my hair is of a very reasonable length. I cannot, therefore, entertain your highly prejudiced remarks, either when I saw you recently or as expressed in your letter.

Regarding your "usual check of \$1000," I can only reply that I have nothing to do with Herald of Truth, and any decision you make about your contribution to them ought to be made on some other basis than my personal appearance. I regret that a man of your years in the church and a man of your supposed maturity would have this kind of "hang-up." Be assured of my continuing good will and acceptance of you as my brother. Also be assured of the fact that the decisions you make about how you use the money God has give you are between you and Him.

Fraternally yours,

John Allen Chalk

JAC:hm  
Enclosures

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Y

# W. E. STEPHENS MFG. CO., INC.

A Little *BIGGER*  A Little *BETTER*

306-308 2nd AVE., N., NASHVILLE, TENNESSEE 37201

January 30, 1970

Mr. John Allen Chalk  
 Highland Church of Christ  
 P. O. Box 2439  
 Abilene, Texas 79604

Dear John Allen:

Prejudice is a terrible thing, but I am guilty. I have about decided that any group of elders that hire a preacher with long side-burns, is not capable of intelligently administering a program such as "Herald of Truth", therefore I should withhold my usual check of \$1,000.00.

"I need help". If you have any suggestions that would assist me in overcoming this prejudice, it would be appreciated, or if you could assure me that the long side-burns had been cut, then I could continue my support in all good conscience.

Hopefully and heartily yours,



W. E. Stephens, Jr.

WES, Jr/jcs

WORK, WESTERN AND PLAY CLOTHES

FOR MEN, WOMEN, BOYS AND GIRLS



January 26, 1970

Mr. Jerry Campbell  
Caixa Postal 30.008  
Sao Paulo 1, Brazil

Dear Jerry:

I want to apologize for not being more cordial and hospitable when you visited with us one Sunday night recently at the Harding Place Church in Nashville. I enjoyed meeting both you and your wife, and regret that my family was unable to be with me that evening.

When I met you that Sunday evening, I decided at once that I would give you \$100.00 to help you with your work in Brazil, but I then ran into the long side-burns on your friend Mr. John Alan Chalk, and immediately in my own mind, cut the check to \$50.00. The longer I looked at John Alan's side-burns, the smaller your check became. I finally decided that \$25.00 was sufficient.

Today I received your letter dated January 19, from the Peak and East Side Church, and am forwarding to them a check for \$100.00 in spite of the long side-burns.

The next time you are in Nashville, I hope you will visit with us again, and we will have the opportunity to know you better.

With every good wish for the success of your work in Brazil, I remain,

Yours truly,

W. E. Stephens, Jr.

WES, Jr/jcs