

TO THE POINT

Is it OK to play sports that involve immodest dress, or should we seek a change?

While you should wear clothing suited for the activity you are engaged in, you should also use good judgment in applying the principle of modesty.

If a sport or performing art requires a specific uniform or costume, it is usually tailored to that activity. In swimming, for instance, a sports swimsuit would be appropriate; for dancers, leotards are often the uniform.

However, if you feel a uniform or costume is unnecessarily

provocative or revealing, speak up about it. Politely let your coach or team know what your standards are and ask them to respect your commitment to dress modestly. You may even encourage more modest choices in uniforms. Be firm but respectful, and don't make demands. **NE**

How is a bishop called?

When the stake president feels directed to release a bishop, he fasts and prays for inspiration to know whom the Lord has chosen as his replacement. When he feels he has identified the Lord's



What is the “sealed portion” of the **Book of Mormon**, and will we ever know what’s in it?

choice, the stake president then sends a recommendation to the First Presidency for approval. (There’s actually a form the stake president fills in and sends to the First Presidency.) The First Presidency and Quorum of the Twelve Apostles then prayerfully consider the person recommended by the stake president. Once the person recommended is approved, the stake president can extend the call to the potential bishop and ask his wife for her support. If he is worthy and accepts the call, the new bishop is then presented to the ward for their sustaining vote and is ordained and set apart, usually by the stake president. **NE**

When Moroni was finishing the Book of Mormon record, he was commanded to seal up some of the plates, and Joseph Smith was later commanded not to translate them. This sealed portion contains the complete record of the vision of the brother of Jared (see Ether 4:4–5). This vision included “all things from the foundation of the world unto the end thereof” (2 Nephi 27:10–11; see also Ether 3:25). So basically the Lord revealed to the brother of Jared the history of mankind, and the sealed portion of the plates was Moroni’s translated copy of it.

Few people have seen the sealed record—for instance, the

Nephites in the land Bountiful at the Savior’s coming (see Ether 4:1–2) and Moroni (see Ether 12:24). The Lord said the sealed portion would be revealed to the world “in mine own due time” (Ether 3:27). He also said it would “not go forth unto the Gentiles until the day that they shall repent of their iniquity, and become clean before the Lord” (Ether 4:6; see also 2 Nephi 27:8).

According to Joseph Smith’s associates who saw the golden plates, anywhere from half to two-thirds of all the plates were in the sealed portion (see Kirk B. Henriksen, “What Did the Golden Plates Look Like?” *New Era*, July 2007, 31). **NE**

Some youth wear their formal outfits to church on the Sunday after a school’s formal dance. Is this OK for Sunday dress?

For the *Strength of Youth* says, “Show respect for the Lord and for yourself by dressing appropriately for Church meetings” ([2001], 16). So the answer to this question depends on what “appropriately” means.

Elder Dallin H. Oaks of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles taught a principle that helps us understand what is appropriate dress for sacrament meeting.

“There should be nothing about [your] personal appearance or actions that would call special attention to [you] or distract anyone present from full attention to the worship and covenant making that are the purpose of this sacred service” (“Sacrament Meeting and the Sacrament,” *Ensign*, Nov. 2008, 20).

Prom dresses, formals, and tuxedos belong at a dance, not

at church. This special type of dress is worn for certain special occasions and would unduly call attention to itself at church.

A priest blessing the sacrament in a tuxedo would be distracting, as would a young woman attending church in a formal dress.

Also keep in mind that there may be young men or young women at church who did not attend the dance. Seeing others in gowns and tuxes could be hurtful and disrupt their worship experience. Be mindful of how you dress, because it could affect those around you, as well as your own worship. **NE**