

CHRIST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

History Series: The History of John Wesley and the Methodist Church

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PART 2: DESCRIPTION OF WESLEY



John Wesley was a slight person (5' 2" or 5'3") and not much over one hundred pounds. The following is a description given by two early associates of John Wesley, Dr. Coke and Mr. More:

Respecting such a man, even the smallest particulars will not be displeasing. He was, in his person, rather below middle size, but remarkably well proportioned. He had what some call a clean constitution in a high degree. He seemed not to have an atom of superfluous flesh, and yet was muscular and strong. His whole person was expressive of activity and health, which generally arises from strong bodily powers, preserved by temperance and exercise. His face was remarkably fine, even to old age. The freshness of his complexion continued to the last week of his life. His whole countenance was highly expressive and interesting: it has often been observed that many who were deeply prejudiced against him have been changed in a moment into sentiments of veneration and esteem, on being introduced into his presence.

He was a pattern of neatness and simplicity, not only in his person, but also in every circumstance of his life. In his chamber and study, during his winter months in London, we believe there was never a book misplaced, or even a scrap of paper left unheeded. He could enjoy every convenience of life; and yet he acted in the smallest things, like a man who was not to continue an hour in one place. He seemed always at home, settled and happy: and yet was ready every hour to take a journey of a thousand miles.

His conversation was always pleasing, and frequently interesting and instructive in the highest degree. By reading, traveling, and continual observation, he had a fund of knowledge, which he dispensed a propriety and perspicuity, that we believe has been rarely equaled. The Greek and Latin classics were as familiar to him as most common English authors; and so were many of the best French writers. Yet, though so richly furnished, we believe those of the most improved taste, have never observed in him the affection of learning. He joined every kind of discourse that was innocent. As he knew that all nature is full of God, he became all things to all men, conversing on these subjects.