

## “And They Stood Every Man in His Place”

*by John Isaac Edwards*

The key to success in Gideon’s defeat of the Midianites is found in Judges 7:21: “And they stood every man in his place round about the camp...” If we are going to be successful today, every man must stand in his place. Let’s explore this concept.

***The Place of Evangelists.*** It is important that evangelists be in their place. It is not the place of an evangelist to “run the church,” to do the work of the elders, deacons or members, to be an organizer and promoter of social activities, to preach his opinions or false doctrine. It is his place to “Preach the word; be instant in season, out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort with all longsuffering and doctrine” (2 Timothy 4:2). This requires that much time be spent in study. Paul commanded Timothy, “Till I come, give attendance to reading, to exhortation, to doctrine” (1 Timothy 4:13). It is the place of evangelists to “...be thou an example of the believers, in word, in conversation, in charity, in spirit, in faith, in purity” (1 Timothy 4:12).

***The Place of Elders.*** A lot of problems have come about down through the years as a result of elders not standing in their place. It is not the place of elders to oversee the work of any church other than that “... over the which the Holy Ghost hath made you overseers...” (Acts 20:28) or “...

which is among you...” (1 Peter 5:2). Nor is “...being lords over God’s heritage...” the place of elders (1 Peter 5:3). Elders are out of place when they try to become law-makers. “There is one lawgiver...” (James 4:12). It is the place of elders to “Take heed therefore unto yourselves, and to all the flock, over the which the Holy Ghost hath made you overseers...” (Acts 20:28). Peter addressed the place of elders when he declared, “Feed the flock of God which is among you, taking the oversight thereof, not by constraint, but willingly; not for filthy lucre, but of a ready mind...being ensamples to the flock” (1 Peter 5:2-3).

***The Place of Deacons.*** There are some deacons who don’t know their place. It is not their place to sit idle or to assume the work of elders when they are not qualified and have not been appointed to the office of a bishop. It is the place of deacons to serve under the oversight of the elders as the basic meaning of the word “deacon” is that of a servant. Their place requires that the men and their wives meet certain qualifications which have been revealed by the Holy Spirit (1 Timothy 3:8-13).

***The Place of Bible Class Teachers.*** The teaching of the Bible in a class arrangement where faithful and able teachers

instruct students on their age level is a Scriptural arrangement authorized in the general command to “teach” (Matthew 28:19-20). It is not the place of the class teacher to be a baby-sitter, an entertainer, or a provider of cookies and Kool-Aid. The teacher is out of place when he teaches everyone but himself (Romans 2:21) and teaches that which is contrary to sound doctrine (Titus 2:1). It is their place “...to be teachers...” (Hebrews 5:12).

***The Place of Men.*** As a man, it is important that I know the place assigned to me by the God who made me. The place of the man is not the role in which he is cast by Hollywood. It is the place of the man to be the leader of his family. God said of Abraham, “For I know him, that he will command his children and his household after him, and they shall keep the way of the Lord, to do justice and judgment...” (Genesis 18:19). It is the man’s place to be the head. “For the husband is the head of the wife, even as Christ is the head of the church...” (Ephesians 5:23). It is his place to love his wife. “So ought men to love their wives as their own bodies. He that loveth his wife loveth himself” (Ephesians 5:28). It is the man’s place to be the father, and being a father in the real sense of the word

means more than just bringing children into the world; it requires bringing “...them up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord” (Ephesians 6:4).

***The Place of Women.*** A lot of women are out of their proper place today. Check the Scriptures and see if this is not the case. The woman is out of place anytime she teaches or usurps authority over the man (1 Timothy 2:12). It is not the place of the woman to have the same role as the man or to be the head of the family. Her place is not one of noisy prominence. It is the place of women, as assigned by God, to be “a help meet” to her husband (Genesis 2:18-24). It is her place to be in subjection to her husband and to reverence her husband (Ephesians 5:22-24, 33). It is the place of women “...to love their husbands, to love their children” (Titus 2:4).

***The Place of Children.*** “Lo, children are an heritage of the Lord...” (Psalm 127:3). Paul discussed the place of children in these words, “Children, obey your parents in the Lord: for this is right. Honour thy father and mother...” (Ephesians 6:1-3).

May God help us to find our place, get in it and stay in it!

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