

The Terre Haute

SPEAKER

“If any man speak, let him speak as the oracles of God...” (1 Peter 4:11).

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THINGS WOMEN CAN DO TO PROMOTE THE CAUSE OF CHRIST

John Edwards

The Bible upholds the dignity and worth of women. There are many things women can do to promote the cause of Christ.

WOMEN CAN BE TEACHERS OF GOOD THINGS. Paul appealed to Titus to instruct the aged women to be “*teachers of good things; That they may teach the young women to be sober, to love their husbands, to love their children, To be discreet, chaste, keepers at home, good, obedient to their own husbands, that the word of God be not blasphemed*” (Titus 2:3-5).

WOMEN CAN PROFESS GODLINESS WITH GOOD WORKS. 1 Timothy 2:9-10 teaches, “*In like manner also, that women adorn themselves in modest apparel, with shamefacedness and sobriety; not with braided hair, or gold, or pearls, or costly array; But (which becometh women professing godliness) with good works.*”

WOMEN CAN BE SERVANTS. In writing saints in Rome Paul penned, “*I commend unto you Phebe our sister, which is a servant of the church which*

is at Cenchrea” (Rom. 16:1).

We need more Anna’s, Mary’s, Priscilla’s, Tabitha’s and Lydia’s today!

WHY SHOULD I BE A PREACHER?

John Edwards

When encouraged to preach the gospel of Christ, one might ask, “Why should I be a preacher?”

NOT BECAUSE: It is an easy job. There’s nothing easy about reproving, rebuking and exhorting (2 Tim. 4:2). If you think the work of a preacher is easy, try it and you’ll see how easy it is. **You can’t find anything else to do.** Some may think that if they can’t find anything else to do, they can always preach. If this is you’re thinking, keep looking and we’ll pray something else comes along. **Of the money.** You will not “strike it rich” by becoming a preacher! There may be times when the support you receive is not enough to adequately provide for your family’s needs. You may not have retirement or health insurance benefits. You may go for years without even a cost of living adjustment. **Of the praise of men.** If you enter preaching seeking personal glory, you are in for a rude awakening! Paul said, “we are

made as the filth of the world, and are the offscouring of all things” (1 Cor. 4:13). You may lose some friends and make some enemies as you speak the truth in love (Gal. 4:16; Eph. 4:15).

BECAUSE: Men are lost in sin. Paul taught, “*All have sinned*” (Rom. 3:23) and “*the wages of sin is death*” (Rom. 6:23). **The gospel is God’s remedy for sin.** Paul stated, “*For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth*” (Rom. 1:16). Unless men hear the gospel, they will be forever lost. **Preaching saves.** 1 Corinthians 1:21 records, “*it pleased God by the foolishness of preaching to save them that believe.*” **You feel a burning need to preach the gospel.** Jeremiah the prophet said, “*I will not make mention of him, nor speak any more in his name. But his word was in mine heart as a burning fire shut up in my bones, and I was weary with forbearing, and I could not stay*” (Jer. 20:9). Preach because you can’t keep from it!

THE CHURCH

TREASURY

John Edwards

The command to “*lay by in store*” (1 Cor. 16:1-2) includes

authority for the church treasury.

SCRIPTURAL METHOD OF COLLECTING MONEY.

1 Corinthians 16:1-2 shows the way church funds are to be gathered. *"Now concerning the collection for the saints, as I have given order to the churches of Galatia, even so do ye. Upon the first day of the week let every one of you lay by him in store, as God hath prospered him, that there be no gatherings when I come."* Where is Bible authority for raising money any other way?

PROPER USE OF THE LORD'S MONEY. Money given to the Lord is no longer ours, but the Lord's. Divine instructions show these funds being used for evangelism (1 Tim. 3:15), edification (Eph. 4:16) and relief (Acts 11:27-30). Can anyone show Scriptural authority for using the Lord's money to provide for anything else?

STORING UP MONEY. Some seem to think "lay by in store" means the church is in the money storing business. Not so! 1 Corinthians 16 funds were to be taken upon Paul's arrival

to the needy saints at Jerusalem. There are churches today that hoard up and sit on large sums of money, while souls need saving, preachers need supporting, brethren need relieving and the church needs edifying. Some brethren are too cheap when it comes to doing the work of the Lord! Storing up money discourages giving and stifles church growth.

TEACHING BY EXAMPLE

John Edwards

There are three ways the Bible teaches a thing: By direct statement or command, approved example, and necessary inference. This writing takes a look at teaching by example.

THE LORD'S EXAMPLE. As Jesus washed the disciples' feet He stated, *"For I have given you an example, that ye should do as I have done to you"* (Jn. 13:15). Peter admonished, *"For even hereunto were ye called: because Christ also suffered for us, leaving us an example, that ye should follow his steps"* (1 Pet. 2:21). If we can show

where the Lord engaged in a thing, we have authority for its practice. If there is no example, then we better just leave it off.

APOSTOLIC EXAMPLE.

Paul wrote the Philippians, *"Those things, which ye have both learned, and received, and seen in me, do: and the God of peace shall be with you"* (Phil. 4:9). So, if an apostle did it, or the church in the New Testament practiced it under the guidance and approval of an apostle, we may do it. But, if there is no apostolic example, there's no authority.

SOME THINGS TAUGHT

BY EXAMPLE. We learn the day of the Lord's supper observance by example in Acts 20:7. Since there is no example of the Lord's people assembling to observe the Lord's supper on any day other than the first day of the week, we are bound to observe it on the first day. We also learn by example that elders are to be appointed in every church. Acts 14:23 records, *"And when they had ordained them elders in every church, and had prayed with fasting, they commended them to the Lord, on whom they believed."*

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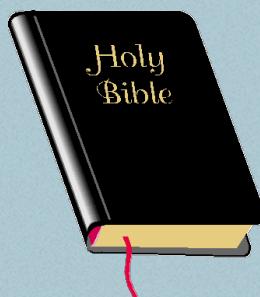
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We Speak Where the Bible Speaks.

We Are Silent Where the Bible Is Silent.

We Do Bible Things in Bible Ways.

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