

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

LET ME PRACTICE WHAT I SING, BUT —

“I want to be more like Jesus...” but it is not right to deprive one of all his *fun* and have to go to church every Sunday.

“All to Jesus I surrender...” but my money and time.

“Give me the Bible...” but don’t always talk about reading and studying it every day.

“I’m not ashamed to own my Lord...” but don’t tell my associates and fellow workers that I’m a Christian.

“Not all earth’s gold and silver can make a sinner whole...” but we need to make and keep as much as possible for a rainy day.

“I love thy Kingdom, Lord...” but only on Sunday morning at eleven.

“I am thine, O Lord...” but I don’t have to be religious all the time.

“My Jesus, I love thee...” but I love other things more.

“More about Jesus would I know...” but one or two sermons a month is enough.

“Stand up, stand up for

Jesus...” but this does not mean me.

“I need thee every hour...” but only at eleven on Sundays.

“To the work, to the work...” but let someone else do it!

“Tell me the story of Jesus...” but make it short and sweet.

“Bless be the tie that binds...” but there are other ties that are stronger.

*Searching The Scriptures
Vol. 1, Num. 2
February, 1960*

RELIGIOUS PROFANITY

John Edwards

Profanity is more than only the bad language one may hear. Whatever profanes the truth may be considered religious profanity. Religious profanity is uttered when it is said:

“**THE CHURCH IS NONESSENTIAL.**” If the church of Christ is not essential, then the blood of Jesus is not necessary! The church was purchased with the Savior’s blood (Acts 20:28). To degrade the church of our Lord is to defame His blood! The Bible teaches, “...*the Lord added to*

the church daily such as should be saved” (Acts 2:47). Christ “...*is the saviour of the church*” (Eph. 5:23).

“**THERE’S NOTHING IN A NAME.**” If you think there is nothing in a name, have your employer put my name on your paycheck rather than your name! Spirit-filled Peter said, “*Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved*” (Acts 4:12). That is, “...*the name of Jesus Christ...*” (v. 11). To say there’s nothing in a name is to speak religious profanity!

“**ONE CHURCH IS AS GOOD AS ANOTHER.**” This is contrary to the truth. The Ephesian letter points out: “*There is one body...*” (4:4) and “*the church...is his body*” (1:22-23). It is also revealed: “*One Lord*” and “*One God*” (4:5-6). If one church is as good as another, is another god as good as “*God our Father*” or another lord as good as “*the Lord Jesus Christ*” (1:2)?

“**IT MAKES NO DIFFERENCE WHAT ONE BELIEVES.**” Does the one who so states so believe? If so, why should we care if it makes no difference? Tell the young prophet of 1 Kings 13, who was slain by a lion, that it makes no difference what one believes!

Jesus must have thought it makes a difference. He taught: "...that whosoever believeth in him should not perish..." (Jn. 3:16) and "...if ye believe not that I am he, ye shall die in your sins" (Jn. 8:24). Ephesians 4:5 says, "...one faith...". It is written, "That they all might be damned who believed not the truth..." (2 Th. 2:12).

"WE DO NOT UNDERSTAND ALIKE." The Ephesians were instructed: "Whereby, when ye read, ye may understand my knowledge in the mystery of Christ" (Eph. 3:4). "Wherefore be ye not unwise, but understanding what the will of the Lord is" (Eph. 5:17). Where do you read of the Ephesians understanding differently? If they understood, they understood alike! There is no such thing as understanding the truth differently! Either we understand it or we do not. Either it is the truth or it is not. It takes "the knowledge of the truth" (1 Tim. 2:4), "belief of the truth" (2 Th. 2:13), "the love of the truth" (2 Th. 2:10), and "obeying the truth" (1 Pet. 1:22) for us to be saved. When you and I do that, we will be together!

Religious profanity would come to a halt, if every man would simply "speak as the oracles of God" (1 Pet. 4:11).

A HIGHER STANDARD OF LIVING

John Edwards

Some seek a higher standard of living, in the sense of more cashflow, nicer houses, automobiles, boats, campers and the like.

How about making it your mission to have a higher standard of living when it comes to morals?

Some are morally bankrupt. There are those who are "...as natural brute beasts..." (2 Pet. 2:12); they act like animals. In fact, many animals behave better than some people do!

Let me suggest how the gospel of Christ elevates one to a higher standard of living.

PUT OFF THE OLD MAN.
"That ye put off concerning the former conversation the old

man, which is corrupt according to the deceitful lusts" (Eph. 4:22). The old man is the man of sin.

PUT ON THE NEW MAN.
"And that ye put on the new man, which after God is created in righteousness and true holiness" (Eph. 4:24). The difference between the old and new man is darkness and light!

DENY UNGODLINESS AND WORLDLY LUSTS. "For the grace of God that bringeth salvation hath appeared to all men, Teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts..." (Titus 2:11-12). The wrath of God is revealed against all ungodliness (Rom. 1:18). Worldly lusts include "...the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life..." (1 Jn. 2:16). To deny is to refuse and refrain from such.

LIVE SOBERLY, RIGHTEOUSLY, AND GODLY.
"...we should live soberly, righteously, and godly, in this present world" (Titus 2:12).

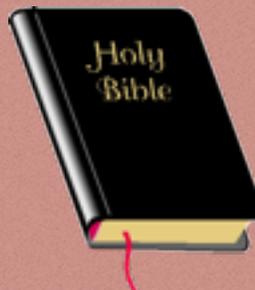
Adopting this standard of living will make it possible for you to live eternally in Heaven!

The Terre Haute **SPEAKER** is published weekly by the church of Christ at Terre Haute, Indiana.

Assembling At:
4017 E Margaret DR
Terre Haute, IN 47803
[Exit 11 (I-70) W on HWY 46,
W on Margaret DR approx. 1 mile]

Assembling Times:
Sunday @ 10:00 a.m. & 3:00 p.m.
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