

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

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YIELD YOUR BODY

Nicolas Edwards

To yield means to “place beside or near, to present, to provide, to give, to place a person or thing at one’s disposal”. How are you yielding your body? Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego are great examples of yielding! *“Then Nebuchadnezzar spake, and said, Blessed be the God of Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, who hath sent His angel, and delivered his servants that trusted in Him, and have changed the king’s word, and yielded their bodies, that they might not serve nor worship any god, except their own God”* (Dan. 3:28). Though it meant being thrown into a burning fiery furnace, they yielded their bodies that they might not serve nor worship any other god. How do you yield your body?

YIELD YOURSELVES UNTO THE LORD. *“Now be ye not stiffnecked, as your fathers were, but yield yourselves unto the Lord, and enter into His sanctuary, which He hath sanctified for ever: and serve the Lord your God, that the fierceness of His wrath may turn away from you”* (2 Chr. 30:8). Could it be that there are those today who are stubborn, hard and difficult, just as some of Israel were? Today we are commanded, *“But seek ye first*

the kingdom of God, and His righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you” (Mt. 6:33). When faced with opposition or anything that might interfere with the kingdom of God or His righteousness, do you yield yourself unto the Lord? Do you yield your body that you might not seek anyone or anything before the Lord?

YIELD NOT UNTO SIN.

Romans 6:13 says, *“Neither yield ye your members as instruments of unrighteousness unto sin: but yield yourselves unto God, as those that are alive from the dead, and your members as instruments of righteousness unto God.”* *“Know ye not, that to whom ye yield yourselves servants to obey, his servants ye are to whom ye obey; whether of sin unto death, or of obedience unto righteousness”* (Rom. 6:16). You have a choice! To which do you yield? *“The wages of sin is death”* (Rom. 6:23). The definition of sin is found in 1 John 3:4, *“Whosoever committeth sin transgresseth also the law: for sin is the transgression of the law.”* Yield your body, that you might not do anything to transgress the law of God! Though it means being hated (Mt. 10:22), suffering persecution (2 Tim. 3:12), being considered strange and evil spoken of (1 Pet. 4:4), becoming a foe of your own

family (Mt. 10:36), giving your life for the Lord (Mt. 16:24; Rom. 14:7-8; 1 Pet. 4:2; Rev. 2:10) and though it means being thrown into a burning, fiery furnace! Will you yield unto God or unto sin? May we have the same faith and conviction that Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego had! *“Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, answered and said to the king, O Nebuchadnezzar, we are not careful to answer thee in this matter. If it be so, our God whom we serve is able to deliver us from the burning fiery furnace, and He will deliver us out of thine hand, O king. But if not, be it known unto thee, O king, that we will not serve thy gods, nor worship the golden image which thou hast set up”* (Dan. 3:16-17). When it comes to sin, of any kind, what choice will you make? Will you yield your body that you might not sin? Will you say, “I am not careful to answer thee in this matter, I will not!” Will you yield yourself unto the Lord? *“I speak after the manner of men because of the infirmity of your flesh: for as ye have yielded your members servants to uncleanness and to iniquity unto iniquity; even so now yield your members servants to righteousness unto holiness”* (Rom. 6:19). *“My tongue shall speak of thy word: for all thy commandments are righteousness”* (Ps. 119:172).

STRANGE, ISN'T IT?

John Edwards

Some in New Testament days said, "*We have seen strange things to day*" (Lk. 5:26). As one observes the thinking of some brethren, he cannot help but see some strange things today.

SITTING ON THE BACK SEAT. I see brethren going early to ballgames and concerts so they can get a front row seat, and there is nothing wrong with that. Yet, I see some of these same people trying to squeeze in on a back seat at the services of the Lord's church. Strange, isn't it?

THE WAY FOLKS DRESS. Some brethren go dressed up in their finest clothing when going to a wedding, a funeral, a job interview, or even a formal dinner. And this is acceptable. But, I see some of these same people coming to the services of the Lord's church dressed as if they were going to the county fair!

ENTHUSIASM. A strange sight to behold is the enthusiasm level of many

church members. Some will go to an athletic contest and scream at the top of their lungs in cheering on their favorite team. Yet, it is very difficult to get some of these same people to even open their mouths and sing out! Singing is a means of "*teaching and admonishing one another*" (Col. 3:16). Some men who are auctioneers can be heard several blocks away when auctioneering, but when they get up to make announcements in the Lord's church can hardly be heard. Isn't it strange?

THE SUPPORT OF PREACHERS. Preaching the gospel is the greatest work under heaven. It is by this means that folks are converted to Christ (Rom. 10:13-17). God ordained that gospel preaching be supported (1 Cor. 9:14). Some brethren look at preachers the way they shop for used cars — they want the best one for the least amount of money. The story is told of a fellow praying for the preacher on this wise: "And, Lord, we pray for our preacher. Lord, you keep him humble. We'll keep him poor." Some brethren expect the preacher to get by on the least possible, while they expect to

breathe easily financially. Many businessmen receive annual raises and expect the preacher to receive the same income without any raises whatsoever. How strange can we get?

VISITING THE SICK. A person gets sick, call the doctor, and the doctor visits the patient. The preacher is not called and the person gets upset because the preacher, who did not know the person was in the hospital, didn't visit. We are strange.

BUYING QUALITY. Most people will agree that unless you buy quality merchandise you are getting only junk. Many members of the church will search out good quality merchandise for their own houses. You can let some of these same people talk about doing something to the church building or the preacher's house and they search out the cheapest things they can find! This is rather strange!

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AT
EVERY
SERVICE!**

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