

The Terre Haute SPEAKER

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

Volume 10

May 9, 2021

Number 19

WHEN THE UNACCEPTABLE BECOMES RESPECTABLE

John Edwards

That which was unacceptable before God became respectable among the people of God as the blind, the lame, and the sick were offered in sacrifice to God (Lev. 22:20; Mal. 1:6-8). There are a number of things today unacceptable to God which have become respectable among men. Consider some examples:

WHEN MEN SAY HOMOSEXUALITY IS JUST ANOTHER LIFESTYLE. There was a time, in this country, when the sin of homosexuality was unacceptable with many, but the unacceptable has now become respectable. The Scriptures still teach that homosexuality is “uncleanness,” “dishonour,” “vile affections,” “against nature,” “unseemly,” “error,” “not convenient,” and “that they which commit such things are worthy of death, not only do the same, but have pleasure in them that do them” (Rom. 1:24-32).

WHEN THERE ARE THOSE WHO TRY TO DEFEND SOCIAL DRINKING. Some agree that “drunkenness” is sin (Gal.

5:21), but really cannot say there is anything wrong with a little drinking. It may be argued that “*not given to much wine*” (1 Tim. 3:8) allows a little wine. First of all, there are different kinds of Bible wine — some fermented or intoxicating and some not. The context shows which is under consideration. If “*not given to much wine*” allows a little wine, does “*be not over much wicked*” (Eccl. 7:17) allow one to be a little wicked? If it is just “*excess of wine*” (1 Pet. 4:3) that is wrong, then would it be okay to be involved in a little “*riot*” (1 Pet. 4:4)? The word “*banquetings*,” in 1 Peter 4:3, is “drinking parties,” which takes in social drinking. Proverbs 20:1 still says, “*Wine is a mocker, strong drink is raging: and whosoever is deceived thereby is not wise.*”

WHEN PEOPLE DIVORCE AND REMARRY FOR EVERY CAUSE. Has it ever occurred to you that divorce, from the beginning, was not so (Mt. 19:3-8)? God’s marriage law, from the beginning, involved one woman for one man for life (Gen. 2:18-24). The teaching of the Lord allows only one reason for divorce and remarriage — fornication. To divorce and remarry for any other cause is to commit adultery (Mt. 19:9; Rom. 7:2-3)! May we get back to that which is respectable as the Bible says, “*Marriage is*

honourable in all, and the bed undefiled: but whoremongers and adulterers God will judge” (Heb. 13:4).

WHEN GAMBLING IS THOUGHT OF AS A GOOD THING. Some try to justify gambling on the thought of all the good it does for the community. Whether in a glitz-and-mortar casino, at a racetrack, through a state-operated lottery, raffling, booth at a county fair, office pool or home on the personal computer, gambling is a form of covetousness and greed. “*For the love of money is the root of all evil: which while some coveted after, they have erred from the faith, and pierced themselves through with many sorrows*” (1 Tim. 6:10).

WHEN MEN AND WOMEN SEE NOTHING WRONG WITH DANCING. Modern dancing comes under the class of “*lasciviousness*” (Gal. 5:19), “wanton acts or manners, as filthy words, indecent bodily movements, unchaste handling of males and females, etc.” (Thayer’s Greek Lexicon). Anyone who would try to defend such a practice would have to have low ideals and be sapped of spirituality.

WHEN IMMODEST APPAREL DOES NOT CAUSE US TO BLUSH. About the only kind of blush many know

anything about these days is the kind you buy in a bottle and rub on! This is a sad commentary on our society. A reading of Genesis 3:7 & 21 will show that one may have some covering and still be naked as far as God is concerned. Hollywood has made it fashionable to parade around in immodest apparel. Yet the Bible says, "*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*" (1 Tim. 2:9-10). Have we become like those in Jeremiah's day, concerning whom it was said, "*Were they ashamed when they had committed abomination? Nay, they were not at all ashamed, neither could they blush*" (Jer. 6:15)?

A thing may be respectable among men, yet be detestable to God. May God help us to deny ungodliness and worldly lusts, and live soberly, righteously and godly in this present world (Titus 2:12).

LET THE DEAD BURY THEIR DEAD

Johnie Edwards

To say there has been a variety of explanations of this passage is to put it mildly! We need to take a look at two Scriptures and their context: Matthew 8:18-22 and Luke 9:57-62 to better understand the phrase.

THE ISSUE IS NOT: By understanding what the issue is not, we can better understand what the issue is. The issue is not burying the dead! From the beginning, people buried their dead. "*I am a stranger and a sojourner with you: give me a possession of a burying place with you, that I may bury my dead out of my sight...*" (Gen. 23:4-20). Jacob/Israel died... "*bury me...*" (Gen. 47:29-30). Joseph said of his father: "*let me go up, I pray thee, and bury my father...*" (Gen. 50:1-7). Jesus was buried. "*Then took they the body of Jesus, and wound it in linen clothes with the spices, as the manner of the Jews is to bury*" (Jn. 19:40).

THE ISSUE IS: The context

of both the Matthew and Luke account is that of "*following the Lord...*" (Mt. 8:19; Lk. 9:57). If one plans to follow the Lord, he cannot let anything get in the way of doing just that. Nothing! Not even a funeral or the burying of the dead! It has been observed that some will schedule the viewing of the dead or the funeral during the worship hour, when it can be worked around worship time. That's the issue!

The Lord is not saying: "don't bury your father"; he is saying, first things first, if you want to be His follower (Lk. 9:61)!

When those in the days of Jesus were worried about all kinds of issues; such as, "*what shall we eat, drink, or be clothed...*" (Mt. 6:31), be aware how the Lord responded: "*But seek ye first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things shall be added unto you*" (Mt. 6:33). That's the kicker to all of this! Too often, too many, even members of the church, attend more to physical things than to spiritual preparation necessary to prepare for the time that they die and will be buried!

The Terre Haute SPEAKER

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

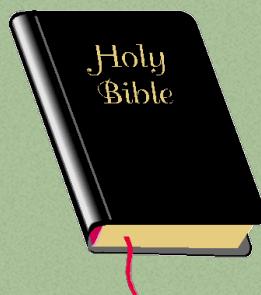
Assembling At:

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.
Wednesday @ 7:00 p.m.

Come be with us!



**We Speak Where the
Bible Speaks.**

**We Are Silent Where the
Bible Is Silent.**

**We Do Bible Things in
Bible Ways.**

www.churchofchristatterhaute.com