

# The Terre Haute

# SPEAKER

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

Volume 12

October 15, 2023

Number 41

## WHY I LOVE THE ELDERS

Nicolas Edwards

The Bible says, *“And we beseech you, brethren, to know them which labour among you, and are over you in the Lord, and admonish you; and to esteem them very highly **in love** for their work’s sake. And be at peace among yourselves”* (1 Th. 5:12-13). Let me tell you why I love the elders.

**FOR THEIR WORK.** Paul beseeched the brethren to *“know them which **labour** among you”* and to *“esteem them very highly in love for their **work’s** sake”* (1 Th. 5:12-13). Paul says this is *“a good work”* (1 Tim. 3:1). Elders put forth a lot of work and labour on our behalf. I love them for that!

**THEY WATCH FOR MY SOUL.** The Hebrew writer penned, *“Obey them that have the rule over you, and submit yourselves: for they watch for your souls, as they that must give account...”* (Heb. 13:17). What a blessing it is to have men who take on such a responsibility! We ought to love them for that.

**THEY ENSURE THINGS ARE DONE RIGHT.** As Holy Ghost made overseers (Acts 20:28), elders oversee or superintend. They ensure things

are done right. They make sure the word is preached (2 Tim. 4:2). They make sure the threefold work of the church is fulfilled (Eph. 4:11-12). They make sure all things are done *“Decently and in order”* (1 Cor. 14:40). I love them for their oversight.

**THEY KEEP THE CHURCH PURE.** The church is to be kept pure (1 Cor. 5). They ensure this is done by putting away the wicked person (1 Cor. 5:13), marking and avoiding (Rom. 16:17) and withdrawing from the disorderly (2 Thess. 3:6). They do this *“that the spirit may be saved”* (1 Cor. 5:5) and to prevent a little leaven from leavening the whole lump (1 Cor. 5:6). Discipline is an act of love (Rev. 3:19). I love the elders for that.

**THEY PROTECT ME.** Acts 20:29-30 says, *“For I know this, that after my departing shall grievous wolves enter in among you, not sparing the flock. Also of your own selves shall men arise, speaking perverse things, to draw away disciples after them.”* The elders protect the flock from false teachers, from wolves who enter in from the outside as well as those that spring up from within our own brethren! The elders stop their mouths (Titus 1:11). They exhort and convince the gainsayers (Titus 1:9). I love them for that!

**THEY ARE WORTHY OF IMITATION.** The elders are *“ensamples to the flock”* (1 Pet. 5:3). That means they are men worthy of imitation. *“Remember them which have the rule over you, who have spoken unto you the word of God: whose faith follow, considering the end of their conversation”* (Heb. 13:7). We are to follow their lead! I love them for that.

**THEY ADMONISH ME.** Paul wrote the Thessalonians, *“And we beseech you, brethren, to know them which labour among you, and are over you in the Lord, and admonish you”* (1 Th. 5:12). To admonish is to put in mind, to caution, to warn, to reprove, to correct. I need admonished and I love the elders for doing that.

**THEY FEED ME.** Peter exhorted the elders to *“Feed the flock of God which is among you”* (1 Pet. 5:2). The word *“feed”* here means to pastor, shepherd, lead a flock, keep sheep. There is more to this word than simply giving food! This involves all of the work of a shepherd over a flock — leading, protecting, caring for, knowing, nourishing; the list goes on.

Being an elder is a great responsibility. I love elders *“that rule well”* (1 Th. 5:17).

## THE CONFESSION

John Edwards

God the Father said of Jesus, "This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased" (Mt. 3:17).

Jesus said, "Whosoever therefore shall confess me before men, him will I confess also before my Father which is in heaven" (Mt. 10:32).

When the parents of the blind man, whose eyes were opened by Jesus, were questioned, "...they feared the Jews: for the Jews had agreed already, that if any man did confess that he was Christ, he should be put out of the synagogue" (Jn. 9:22).

John 12:42 states, "Nevertheless among the chief rulers also many believed on him; but because of the Pharisees they did not confess him, lest they should be put out of the synagogue."

Jesus asked His disciples, "Whom do men say that I the Son of man am?" (Mt. 16:13). After they expressed what some said concerning Jesus, the question was put to the disciples, "But whom say ye that I am?" and Peter answered, "Thou art the Christ, the Son of the living God" (Mt. 16:15-16). Jesus said, "...upon this rock I will build my church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it" (Mt. 16:18).

When the man of Ethiopia said, "See, here is water; what

doth hinder me to be baptized?", Philip said, "If thou believest with all thine heart, thou mayest. And he answered and said, I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God. And he commanded the chariot to stand still: and they went down both into the water, both Philip and the eunuch; and he baptized him" (Acts 8:36-38).

Paul wrote the Romans, "That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved. For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation" (Rom. 10:9-10).

The apostle also says, "That at the name of Jesus every knee should bow... And that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father" (Phil. 2:10-11).

Paul declared to Timothy, "Fight the good fight of the faith, lay hold on the life eternal, whereunto thou wast called, and didst confess the good confession in the sight of many witnesses" (ASV, 1 Tim. 6:12) and in the next verse applied the same words "good confession" to the confession made by Jesus before Pontius Pilate (1 Tim. 6:13).

John recorded, "Whosoever shall confess that Jesus is the Son of God, God dwelleth in him, and he in God" (1 Jn. 4:15). And again, "Who is he that overcometh the

world, but he that believeth that Jesus is the Son of God?" (1 Jn. 5:5).

From these passages, much is learned about the confession.

1. We must confess Jesus before men for Jesus to confess us before the Father (Mt. 10:32).

2. To confess Jesus was to confess that He was the Christ (Jn. 9:22; 12:42).

3. The church is built upon the bedrock truth that Jesus is "the Christ, the Son of the living God" (Mt. 16:15-16, 18).

4. The confession, "I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God" was made after faith and before baptism (Acts 8:36-38).

5. The confession is made with the mouth, with the tongue (Rom. 10:9-10; Phil. 2:10-11).

6. The confession is made "unto salvation" (Rom. 10:10).

7. The confession is made unto "life eternal" (1 Tim. 6:12).

8. The confession "that Jesus is the Son of God" is necessary in order that God may dwell in us (1 Jn. 4:15).

In light of what the Bible says about the confession, who would dare omit it or attempt to make it in any other way? The way that is right and cannot be wrong is for persons to publicly confess with their mouth, "I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God" prior to being baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins (Acts 2:38).

**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.churchofchristatterrehaute.com](http://www.churchofchristatterrehaute.com)**