

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

Volume 11

September 4, 2022

Number 32

THE PLACE OF CHILDREN IN THE HOME

John Edwards

Children add an element of happiness to the home. The Psalmist penned, *“Lo, children are an heritage of the Lord: and the fruit of the womb is his reward. As arrows are in the hand of a mighty man; so are children of the youth. Happy is the man that hath his quiver full of them”* (Ps. 127:3-5). Let’s notice the place of children in the home.

TO OBEY THEIR PARENTS. In Ephesians 6:1 Paul commanded, *“Children, obey your parents in the Lord: for this is right.”* Also, *“Children, obey your parents in all things: for this is well pleasing unto the Lord”* (Col. 3:20). Many children today are *“disobedient to parents”* (Rom. 1:30). Under the law, if a child was stubborn and rebellious and would not obey his parents, they stoned him to death (Dt. 21:18-21). A child’s obedience to his parents is the right thing to do!

TO HONOUR THEIR FATHER AND MOTHER. The apostle Paul told children to *“Honour thy father and thy mother; (which is the first commandment with promise;) That it may be well with thee,*

and thou mayest live long on the earth” (Eph. 6:2-3). God has always expected children to honour their parents (Ex. 20:12). A child’s honour and respect for his parents promotes long life.

TO HEAR A FATHER’S INSTRUCTION. The wise man said, *“Hear, ye children, the instruction of a father, and attend to know understanding”* (Prov. 4:1). There are two types of children: wise and foolish. *“A wise son heareth his father’s instruction”* (Prov. 13:1) and *“A fool despiseth his father’s instruction”* (Prov. 15:5). Solomon announced, *“A wise son maketh a glad father: but a foolish son is the heaviness of his mother”* (Prov. 10:1). What kind of child are you?

TO RELIEVE NEEDY PARENTS. Paul wrote, *“But if any widow have children or nephews, let them learn first to shew piety at home, and to requite their parents: for that is good and acceptable before God”* (1 Tim. 5:4). Furthermore, *“If any man or woman that believeth have widows, let them relieve them, and let not the church be charged; that it may relieve them that are widows indeed”* (1 Tim. 5:16). Children, if your parents are in need, do all you can to support and relieve them. This may require you to take a job and contribute to the needs of your parents.

50,000 PHYSICIANS CAN’T BE WRONG!

John Edwards

I saw a sign on a medical building that read, “50,000 physicians can’t be wrong!” Do you think they can? Many have the idea that the majority can’t be wrong. Let’s see about that from a spiritual standpoint.

EIGHT SAVED IN THE ARK. 1 Peter 3:20 records, *“Which sometime were disobedient, when once the longsuffering of God waited in the days of Noah, while the ark was a preparing, wherein few, that is, eight souls were saved by water.”* All of the people outside the ark were destroyed (Gen. 7:21-23). Had you been living in Noah’s time, just think where you would have ended up if you went along with the majority!

ISRAEL THE FEWEST OF ALL PEOPLE. Moses said unto the Israelites, *“The Lord did not set his love upon you, nor choose you, because ye were more in number than any people; for ye were the fewest of all people”* (Dt. 7:7). Israel, God’s chosen people, were in the minority, not the majority.

THE WAY TO LIFE IS THE WAY OF THE FEW. The Lord said, *“Enter ye in at the strait gate: for wide is the gate, and broad is the way, that leadeth*

to destruction, and many there be which go in thereat: Because strait is the gate, and narrow is the way, which leadeth unto life, and few there be that find it" (Mt. 7:13-14). The way to eternal life is the way of the minority. The majority of people will be lost!

Exodus 23:2 says, "Thou shalt not follow a multitude to do evil...." In religious matters, the majority is a false standard. Just because the majority may believe or do a thing does not make it right!

**OLD TESTAMENT
ATTITUDES
NEEDED TODAY**
John Edwards

A good way of developing a good attitude is to notice attitudes exemplified in the Bible. There are a number of good attitudes expressed in the Old Testament that we would do well to put into our lives today.

**"THUS DID NOAH;
ACCORDING TO ALL THAT GOD
COMMANDED HIM, SO DID HE"**

(GEN. 6:22). Noah had an attitude of obedience! We need to learn to do all that God commands us! The Lord asked, "And why call ye me, Lord, Lord, and do not the things which I say?" (Lk. 6:46). Let's be "doers of the word" (Jas. 1:22).

**"AND ABRAM SAID UNTO
LOT, LET THERE BE NO
STRIFE, I PRAY THEE,
BETWEEN ME AND THEE, AND
BETWEEN MY HERDMEN AND
THY HERDMEN; FOR WE BE
BRETHREN" (GEN. 13:8).**

Abraham displayed a good attitude toward strife and unity. The wise man declared, "Hatred stirreth up strifes: but love covereth all sins" (Prov. 10:12). Unity is both good and pleasant (Ps. 133:1), while strife is neither good nor pleasant! We need to learn to "follow after the things which make for peace" (Rom. 14:19).

**"HOW THEN CAN I DO
THIS GREAT WICKEDNESS AND
SIN AGAINST GOD?" (GEN.
39:9).** Joseph had a good attitude toward temptation and sexual immorality. He recognized fornication as great wickedness and sin against God. We need to possess the proper

attitude toward such. We need to keep ourselves pure (1 Tim. 5:22) and flee fornication (1 Cor. 6:18). The sin of fornication will keep one out of heaven (Gal. 5:19-21).

**"AND SAUL ASKED
COUNSEL OF GOD" (1 SAM.
14:37).** There are two sources of advice or counsel: God and the world. Hosea 4:12 records, "My people ask counsel at their stocks, and their staff declareth unto them". "What does God have to say?" and "For what saith the scripture?" (Rom. 4:3) are questions that need to be asked by all.

**"NEITHER WILL I OFFER
BURNT OFFERINGS UNTO THE
LORD MY GOD OF THAT
WHICH DOTHT COST ME
NOTHING" (2 SAM. 24:24).** This was the reply of King David to Araunah when he was presented an opportunity to offer a sacrifice to God that involved no cost to him personally. Today, we need this same attitude! Many are not willing to make real sacrifice to the Lord in giving, attending the services, time and loyalty to God!

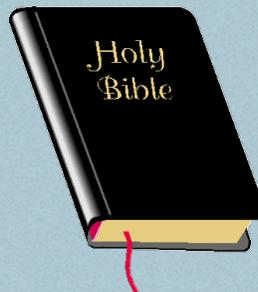
May we please God by possessing the proper attitudes!

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,
West on Margaret DR 1 mile]

Assembling Times:
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