



Rockwood Church of Christ

The Proclaimer

January 27, 2008

P.O. Box 416
129 S. Chamberlain Ave.
Rockwood, TN 37854
865-354-0855

Elders:

Dana Carter
Kenneth Carter
Omer Collins
Albert Griffin

Deacons:

Bobby Bear
Kendall Bear
Roger Carter
Don Chandler
Steve McCreary
Don Wicks

Minister:

Brad Tate, B.A., M.A.,
D.MIN

Secretary:

Susan Chandler

Service Times:

Sunday

Bible Study 10 am
Worship Service 10:45 am
Worship Service 6 pm

Wednesday

Bible Study 7:30 pm

Monday

Ladies Class 10 am

Email:

rockwdcc@earthlink.net

CONFLICT

Do you want to see progress happen? Plant a word of love deep in the heart of a person's life. Nurture it with a smile and a prayer, and watch what happens. I know that many of us have a hard time dealing with our kinfolks. Dealing with difficult relatives can be hard. Dealing with difficult people can be hard, but we must all face the fact that we will be faced with this again, sooner or later.

But there are ways of dealing with conflict of others, and yes, they sometimes work, but sometimes they do not. An employee gets a compliment. A wife receives a bouquet of flowers...

Sowing seeds of peace is like sowing beans. You do not know why it works; you just know it does. Seeds are planted, and topsoils of hurt shoved away...

Jesus modeled this type of behavior. Yes, Jesus was hurt; yes, he was treated badly, talked to like a dog, and was treated like He was not one of the family. You and I can relate, sometimes. We do not see him settling many disputes or negotiating conflicts. But we do see Him cultivating or growing inward harmony through acts of love...

Jesus built bridges by healing hurts. He prevented conflict by touching the inside. He grew harmony by sowing seeds of peace in fertile hearts. I believe here at Rockwood we have an opportunity to grow, and we can all grow stronger and closer to one another and to the God that we serve by touching the inside of each of our families' heart. This allows our seeds to grow in each fertile heart that is a member of the congregation here. We have such a beautiful spirit and such a beautiful family here, and we all want to grow. Let us grow together, and let us plant love in each of our hearts; let us pray for each other, and let us always give a smile to those around us. If we will do this, then watch what will happen.

Dealing with difficult relatives is one thing, but dealing with members of the Lord's church should never be a problem because we should always strive to do what is right and we should never let anything come between the one's we love.

“Recompense to no man evil for evil. Provide things honest in the sight of all men. If it be possible, as much as lieth in you, live peaceably with all men.”
(Romans 12:17-18)

“Blessed are the peacemakers: for they shall be called the children of God.”
(Matthew 5:9)

“Finally, brethren, farewell. Be perfect, be of good comfort, be of one mind, live in peace; and the God of love and peace shall be with you.” (II Corinthians 13:11)

Brad

KNOW MY HABITS; KNOW MY HEART

Know my habits; know my heart! This proverb was never more evident than it was in the life of Jesus when he returned to His hometown of Nazareth. *“So He came to Nazareth, where He had been brought up. And as His custom was, He went into the synagogue on the Sabbath day, and stood up to read” (Luke 4:16-17).*

I recently heard a nationally renowned speaker say that he could discern the values that any person holds dear if he had access to only two documents. And, what are these two documents that hold the secrets of a man’s heart? According to the speaker, they are his checkbook and his daily planner. From these two sources, he could determine how a person spends his time and how he spends his money. In that sense, I concluded that the speaker was correct! Everything that is truly important to me is reflected in my checkbook and my planner.

Jesus had habits just like everyone else. By carefully noting the text cited above, we gain insight into the values that Jesus held dear. Note that He went into the synagogue on the Sabbath days *“as His custom was.”* The obvious import of this passage is that Jesus had, over a long process of time, developed the habit of going into the synagogue for the express purpose of worship on the Sabbath. His custom was one developed on His own violation and not by force of another. In the synagogue He could associate with others who respected God’s laws and shared His view of their importance. He could read from the inspired Scriptures, God’s Divine source of wisdom. He could discuss how the Scriptures applied to His own life and to the lives of those about Him. The fact that Jesus habitually visited the synagogue on a weekly basis reveals much about the character of Jesus.

I have heard people argue, “I can be a Christian without going to church every Sunday!” Usually I have heard this line in defense of one’s habit of not attending church services. With Jesus’ custom of attending the synagogue in view, I wonder if an informed person would make this argument to Jesus? I hardly think so! Why not? Because everyone knows – “Know my habits; Know my heart!”

Jim Bullington

THE GREAT EQUALIZER

“As he came forth of his mother’s womb, naked shall he return to go as he came, and shall take nothing of his labour which he ay carry away in his hand. And this also is a sure evil, that in all points as he cam, so shall he go: and what profit hath he that hath laboured for the wind?” (Ecclesiastes 5:15-16).

Whether one be rich or poor, death is the great equalizer. Everyone leaves this life the same way they entered it. Thus, it matters not how much power, prosperity or popularity you’ve obtained while here on earth. What matters most is where you stand with God!

“Marvel not at this: for the hour is coming, in which all that are in the graves shall hear His voice. And shall come forth; they that have done good into the resurrection of life; and they that have done evil, unto the resurrection of damnation.” (John 5:28-29)

Bulletin Digest