



Rockwood Church of Christ

The Proclaimer

February 17, 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

WITHOUT LOVE

I heard of a recent email given to a preacher friend of mine from a woman in the church who lives out of state. I do not know of the woman, but my friend tells me that she found a group started by him titled, "The Truth About the Church of Christ."

This woman has been struggled with the church, and she, like many, understands that if the church is your family, then why do they treat you as though you are an outcast. You see this woman's experience with the church is one dominated by radicalism, ritualism, legalism and apathy. It has been a long time since she has seen in her brethren the kind of love that Christ commanded.

"A new commandment I give unto you, That ye love one another; as I have loved you, that ye also love one another. By this shall all men know that ye are my disciples, if ye have love one to another." (John 13:34-35)

What does this usually lead to in an individual? Although they have been taught the truth, they often leave the church. Let me be bold in saying, "Is this really her fault?" I would have to say, "Yes and no." The members of the body are responsible for their actions as well. How many have we lost because of our radical, ritualistic, legalistic, and apathetic behavior? Why do we lose people like this? Because they cease to believe that the church is really what it claims to be. While I know that we are living in a world that is straying farther and farther from religious truth, embracing only the spiritual blessings and favors and casting off commandments and identities, I am afraid that we are hurting the cause of Christ when we defend the truth with the wrong attitude.

When Paul wrote about the seven ones (**Ephesians 4:4-6**), he continued with the importance of coming to maturity. The meat in this sandwich is **"There is one body, and one Spirit, even as ye are called in one hope of your calling; One Lord, one faith, one baptism, One God and Father..."** But the two pieces of bread are **"Endeavoring to keep the unity of the spirit in the bond of peace"** (**Ephesians 4:13**) and **"...speaking the truth in love..."** (**Ephesians 4:15**).

We, as a people, need to work as hard as we can to show the kind of love Christ has shown for us. With every commandment, let there be care. With every law, let there be love. With every expectation, let there be encouragement. With every responsibility, let there be respect.

If we cease to have these things, we will indeed cease to be the kingdom Christ died to establish and people will make note of it. May God help us to love one another.

"By this shall all men know that ye are my disciples, if ye have love one to another" (John 13:35).

*Endeavoring to keep the unity and speaking the truth in love,
Brad*

GOD IS OMNISCIENT!

“...when He saw the multitudes, He was moved with compassion for them, because they were scattered, like sheep having no shepherd” Matthew 9:36

For me, this is one of the most touching texts in the Holy Scriptures. I feel this way because this passage communicates clearly the passion Jesus has for mankind.

“He saw the multitudes...”

Be it friend or foe, rich or poor, young or old, male or female, healthy or unhealthy, the Lord is aware of everyone. The psalmist declares: *“His eyes observe the nations...” Psalm 66:7*. His just observation is aware of right and wrong, but instead of looking at what we deserve He sees what we need and longs to be our Savior.

“He was moved with compassion for them...”

The time will come when God will judge the godly and ungodly but now He is concerned with saving us. As our Creator He has no pleasure in seeing us robbed of life. As our heavenly Father His love has motivated Him to send Jesus to save us from our sins, **John 3:16**.

“...because they were scattered...”

In life, direction and guidance are necessary, but often they are lacking or neglected and because of this we are like the blind leading the blind. This is a very dangerous way to live because it makes us easy prey for the devil who is out seeking who he may devour, **I Peter 5:8**.

”...like sheep having no shepherd”

It is this situation that moves Jesus. He cares for us too much to see us destroyed. He is the good Shepherd and He longs to deliver us. Have you accepted His compassion? If so, let others know about it. If not, why not? He cares for you and He wants you saved, **John 10:10-11**.

Don Bahr

TEN RULES FOR IMPROVING ATTITUDES IN THE CHURCH

Tell yourself over and over that since you are not perfect, you would not fit into a “perfect” congregation if one existed.

Instead of picking out the worldly members to point to, select the sincere, dedicated, spiritual members and thank God for them.

If you are old, treat the young with the consideration you desired as a young person. If you are young, treat adults with the respect you will want when you are mature.

When you are tempted to criticize others, be sure to pray earnestly for them first. This may not change them, but it will do wonders for your attitude.

When you see a work neglected, instead of being critical, offer to help.

Never blame others for your own failures. Every individual can be faithful to God in spite of the bad examples and discouraging attitudes of others.

Remind yourself every day that the only way you can improve the world or the church is to begin with self.

Consciously look for the good qualities in each brother and sister in Christ; make a mental note of the good points each possesses.

Constantly strive to increase your circle of associates in the church. Try to do something for each.

Every congregation has problems. Constantly ask yourself, “Am I a part of the problem, a part of the solution, or merely a critical spectator?”

Banner of Truth