



Rockwood Church of Christ

The Proclaimer

March 2, 2008

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Kendall Bear
Roger Carter
Don Chandler
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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

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“WHAT CAN I DO TO ENCOURAGE AN UNFAITHFUL CHILD TO FOLLOW CHRIST?”

This question is on many minds. It is not a light hearted question to stir conversation, but rather a soul aching question of concern. Let us strive to offer a few suggestions.

First, notice the question is an important and good question to ask. It is important because a soul is at stake. If we ever stop caring about the souls of our family, how pitiful we have become!

Second, notice the question is difficult. Your desire for righteousness may not be the child's desire. No matter how desperately we want them to turn to Christ we must begin this discussion with the acceptance that we cannot force them to do so.

With this in mind, consider these:

1. The principle in **I Peter 3:1** is helpful in this situation. Peter wrote to wives married to husbands of unbelief instructing them not to nag their husbands, but let their conduct win them to Christ. Parents, make sure your child sees you as a person that is in every way dedicated to God! The child may not listen to what you say, but they will remember what you do! Win them by showing them!

2. Pray for the child daily. Hannah formed the life of her child before his existence through fervent prayer (**I Sam. 1**). “Pray without ceasing” (**I Thess. 5:17**). In **Luke 18:1-8** God says to cry to Him day and night. **James 5:16b** says, “The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much.” With a problem as difficult and serious as a lost child, we need the greatest power in and out of the universe! Pray often!

3. Ask the elders for your child. In **James 5:14** the elders were called to pray over the sick. The task of elders in the Bible is described as “overseers” or “shepherds.” Sometime elders get too caught up in the “business” of the church that they forget they should know what troubles the flocks heart of great concern in order to encourage and pray in the most appropriate way for the congregation.

4. Let your child know beyond any doubt that the most important thing he can do on this earth is to serve God. Not through nagging! Perhaps through a letter or a serious talk, let the child know that his soul is worth more than the world. Let your child read **Matthew 16:24-26**, and then if they do not understand, explain it to them, and yes, you may have to study, but studying is a command that we should be doing anyway (**II Tim. 2:15**).

5. Tell your child of the joy it would bring to you. Somewhere deep down in almost every son or daughter is the desire to make their parent(s) proud. Let the child know that no other success in their life will bring the joy or replace the wishes that you have for their soul's salvation! To every parent that reads this article with a lost child in mind, I simply want to say, “be thou faithful unto death!” Your faithfulness may be the most powerful sermon your child is hearing. Do not give up or give in.

For the souls of our children, Brad

THE SIMPLICITY OF SIN

How many sermons have you heard on the subject of sin? Probably a lot! We know that sin is transgression of the law (**I John 3:4**). We know that all have sinned (**Romans 3:23**) and that sin brings death (**Rom. 6:23**). We know that it started in the Garden of Eden (**Gen. 3**) and that death has passed upon all men even though we may not sin in precisely the same way Adam did (**Rom. 5:12**). We know that sin's appeal is made in three ways : 1. the lust of the flesh, 2. the lust of the eyes, 3. the pride of life (**I John 2:15-17**). We also know that there are sins of omission (leaving something undone that has been commanded of us) and sins of commission (doing what has been forbidden).

But, do we know that sin is a very simple thing? It isn't a complex equation that requires a lot of thinking or rationale. In fact, sin is simple. When temptation arises, it comes in the form of an appeal to something we like. It's a pleasurable feeling we allow to grow without restraint. Then, comes the moment we decide to indulge ourselves and sin takes place. How do I know this? **James 1:13-15** describes this very process...a process with which most of us are familiar. Notice that it is not a long, arduous thing. It can take place in just a short period of time. But, once done, it may fill the remainder of life with regret and sorrow.

It's sad that sin is so simple. It's this simplicity that makes it so easy to give in to it and, ultimately, to be caught up in a way of life that leads to destruction. If we were to see the horror of sin, it might not be so appealing. If we could see the devastating effects of sin and ruined lives, it may not have the strong pull that it does have. But, we rarely see that side. We only see the pleasure it brings even if it is just for a moment.

Peter warned the brethren to be sober and vigilant with regard to Satan because he is always looking to consume us (**I Pet. 5:8**). God told Cain that sin lay at the door like a wild animal ready to pounce on us (**Gen. 4:7**). Both of these passages tell me something about sin – it is ready to take us when we least expect it. What seems innocent enough one moment may forever separate us from God and set us on a path from which we may never return. Sin may be simple, but it can make life so much more complex and difficult to handle. Maybe we need to remember the old maxim, "If a thing looks too good to be true...maybe it is."

Gary Knuckles

WHY DOESN'T GOD HEAR MY PRAYERS?

What is your understanding of prayer? Some see it as nothing more than asking God for what they want. They ask and God gives. It's as simple as that. If and when God doesn't respond, they give up on prayer. "It doesn't work," they say, "so what's the use of praying?"

To Jesus the meaning of prayer was not that God would give Him whatever He asked. This is evident from the prayer that He prayed in the Garden of Gethsemane. Removing Himself from the disciples, with a soul sorrowful, even to death, Jesus fell on His face and prayed, "*My Father, if it is possible, let this cup pass from Me; nevertheless, not as I will, but as Thou wilt*" (**Matthew 26:39**).

Needless to say, the cup of suffering was not removed. It couldn't be if God were to accomplish His plan. As in every circumstance, Jesus wanted God's will to be done. The petition for His own welfare was superseded by His overridden concern to do what God wanted Him to do.

Prayer, we think, is a way of getting God to do our will. Jesus saw it differently. He poured out His concerns, but accepted the will of God.

Selfishness, rather than submission, is often a hallmark of our praying. That's why, as Clean Lyles used to say, "Our prayers don't have any suction." James reminds us, "*Ye ask, and receive not, that ye may consume it upon your lusts*" (**James 4:3**).

This searching condition put on all our prayers is that they must be in Christ's name (**John 14:13-14**). All prayers uttered in accordance with divine will are answered. "*Ask, and it shall be given you*" follows "*seek ye first the kingdom of God and His righteousness.*"

Bulletin Digest