



# Rockwood Church of Christ

## The Proclaimer

April 8, 2012

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

**Elders:**

Dana Carter  
Kenneth Carter  
Don Chandler

**Deacons:**

Bobby Bear  
Kendall Bear  
Larry Brackett  
Roger Carter  
Steve McCreary  
Don Wicks

**Minister:**

Kirby Hinds

**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:**

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**Website:**

Rockwoodchurchofchrist.com

## ARE YOU EVER FRUSTRATED?

By Jeremiah Tatum

How do you feel when things just aren't going your way? You are behind on a hospital bill, the car is in the shop, and even the dog seems to be barking all night. There are a lot of things in this life that can be frustrating. We may not be able to get over an illness, or perhaps people at the workplace are being difficult. Maybe we just, as one lady I know used to say, "...got too many arns in the far."

As I was trying to keep up with my daily Bible reading, I came across a passage that helped me realize what frustration is all about. In **Mark 3:1-5** we read, "*And He entered the synagogue again, and a man was there who had a withered hand. And they watched him closely, whether He would heal him on the Sabbath, so that they might accuse Him. Then He said to the man who had the withered hand, 'Step forward.' And He said to them, Is it lawful on the Sabbath to do good or to do evil, to save life or to kill? But they kept silent. So when He had looked around at them with anger, being grieved at the hardness of their hearts, He said to the man, stretch out your hand. And he stretched it out, and his hand was restored, as whole as the other.*"

Jesus was often frustrated with people, even those who were supposed to be children of God. We see justified anger in His demeanor, and grief because of the hardness of the human heart. He was the Son of God, come to save the world and enlighten humanity. "*But He was despised and rejected by men, a Man of sorrows and acquainted with grief. And we hid as it were, our faces from Him: He was despised, and we did not esteem Him*" (**Isaiah 53:3**).

It occurs to me that our daily frustrations are often trivial compared to the frustrations of Christ. He had to clear out the money changers from His Father's house. He had to explain in detail His teachings to His own apostles. He had to watch those who were His greatest supporters struggle with a lack of faith.

Being frustrated is a part of life, and I suppose that as long as we are in this house we will groan, "*earnestly desiring to be clothed with our habitation which is from heaven*" (**II Corinthians 5:2**). But the next time you get frustrated, see a man who hangs on a cross, grieved in His heart for the hardness of a people who wouldn't receive the gift of God, imagine how He must feel even today when we frustrate Him with our sins, though He died for us to no longer live in bondage. You will get over it.

## MODESTY

Steve Higginbotham

It goes without saying that times sure have changed. I for one don't lament that. I am glad to be the beneficiary of many of those changes. However not all changes have been for the better.

One of the changes that I do lament is the overall downgrade with reference to morality, reverence, and modesty. We now live in a time when young women wear clothing in public that is more suitable for the privacy of their bedroom than to be worn out in public. As if this weren't bad enough, these young women even wear this type clothing to worship services.

While a lack of clothing is a problem, another problem is the type of clothing that one wears. I will be the first to say that God looks at the heart, and we should not discriminate in the way we treat a person due to their wealth or lack thereof as it is reflected in one's clothing. However, that said, there are types of clothing that demonstrates respect and reverence, and there are types of clothing that demonstrates a lack of respect and reverence. While I understand we live in an ever growing casual society, we must not allow our laid back approach to encroach upon the way we approach God. God is God, he's not our pal. Speech or dress that tends to bring God down to our level and lessen the awe and reverence we should have when we approach him is totally inappropriate. Whatever happened to our understanding of **Psalm 89:7**? *"God is greatly to be feared in the assembly of the saints. And to be held in reverence by all those around Him"* If our dress is not consistent with that passage, then our attire needs to change.

One of the problems I think we have is that we have forgotten the purpose of clothing. Clothing was intended to be worn to "cover" our bodies and to "hide" our nakedness. Today, many wear clothing to "expose" their bodies, and to tantalize and excite the imagination.

It has become a weekly practice for me to be shocked by the dress of some who walk into the church building to worship God. I go home asking myself, "Where is their sense of shame or reverence?" and with reference to young people in particular, "How could their parents allow them to dress that way?"

While repeatedly seeing such a disregard for modesty is discouraging, allow me to share an encouraging story with you. Not long ago, just prior to the start of worship, a teenage young man moved from one end of the pew to the other. After moving, he ended up sitting directly behind me. So I turned around and said, "Hey, why did you move down on this end?" His response was, "Are you kidding? There's no way I could ever worship God sitting by the girls down there. Did you see how they were dressed? I couldn't possibly stay there and keep my mind on spiritual things."

Let me tell you, I haven't been that proud of a young man in a long time. What an expression of spiritual maturity! And what a sad commentary on the way our teenage girls were dresses that morning.

Friends it's time to speak up on this topic, like we would any other truth. Modesty is as much a Biblical issue as baptism or worship. Would we idly sit by in our churches and watch as God's truth on baptism or worship was hijacked or discredited? Surely not. Then why would we idly sit back in our churches and witness God's truth on modesty being ignored? *(Guys this goes for you too! Be conscience of your t-shirts and shorts!)*