



Rockwood Church of Christ

The Proclaimer

January 29, 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:

rockwdcc@earthlink.net

Website:

Rockwoodchurchofchrist.com

SAVE YOUR FAMILY

Noah got his family on the ark. Joshua was determined that his family would “serve the Lord.” Eunice gave her son Timothy the gift of faith. It’s our turn.

We can, we must, and with God’s help, we will save our children. Make saving yourself and then saving your children, your highest priority. Be an example to your children that’s worth imitating. Have a faith that is contagious to all in your house.

Be the all that separates your children from the devil who stalks them. Pray with your family. Talk to God about your children and talk to your children about God. Worship with your children. Do this “every time the church doors are open” and one day you’ll be in heaven with your children and your children’s children.

Play with your children. Laugh with them daily. Eat with your children at the same table at the same time. Talk to your children. Listen. Turn the television off. Silence the cell phone. Have a “no-texting” zone around the dinner table.

Teach them that modesty is a virtue, that hard work is healthy, that beauty fades, that character counts, that pouting is a waste of time, that “fitting in” is overrated, that alcohol destroys, that purity is a great prize, that debt is bad.

Never let your children hear you bash the church, or take your Lord’s name in vain. Always be heard praising God and others. Be your children’s biggest fan, their first teacher, their most significant influence.

Know where your children are. Know who they are with. Know their schoolteachers and their Bible school teachers. Know what homework they need to do. Know what’s under their bed and on their computer. Know their fears, their dreams, their favorite songs, movies, foods and places to be.

Catch your children doing good. Say no as needed. Say yes to whatever is good. Be a parent not a “best buddy.” Discipline your children with the goal of teaching self-discipline. Don’t say it unless you mean it. Be genuine. Don’t do anything you wouldn’t want your children to do. Your children and mine deserve our best effort. Let’s give it to them.

Jeff Abrams

“LET THE CHILDREN COME TO ME; DO NOT HINDER THEM”

People were bringing their little children to Jesus so that He might lay His hands on them and they might be blessed by His touch. The disciples tried to put a stop to such nonsense. Jesus was far too important and far too busy to waste His time with a bunch of little kids! But Jesus didn't share that viewpoint. He said, *“Let the children come to me; do not hinder them, for to such belongs the kingdom of God. Truly, I say to you, whoever does not receive the kingdom of God like a child shall not enter it.”* And the passage concludes by saying, *“And He took them in His arms and blessed them, laying His hands on them”* (**Mark 10:13-16**).

Few things are as precious as a sweet little baby. Few are as marvelous as the young child hungry for knowledge, full of energy, and unable to keep from running everywhere. Walking is too slow. Being quiet for an hour is all but impossible. Sitting still is extremely hard. And staying clean all day would rob the world of fun.

Little children very easily entangle themselves in our heartstrings. We want to pick them up and hug them. And they don't usually mind, as long as we don't hold them still for more than a few seconds.

But Jesus charges parents, grandparents, and all other adults with a serious responsibility. He tells us not to hinder the little children from coming to Him. All too often, parents do just that, often without meaning to. They fail to bring their children to Bible class and worship during those early, formative years when the children are eager to learn and are most impressionable. Young children usually yearn to be in Bible class and worship. And if brought up *“in the discipline and instruction of the Lord”* (**Ephesians 6:4**), chances are good that they will continue walking in the light as they reach the teen years and then grow into adulthood.

Sometimes parents are just careless, letting the years slip past when they could have instilled the love of God and faith in Jesus in their children. So the weeds eventually take root among the stalks of wheat. At other times parents have their own priorities wrong. I remember a young man of ten or eleven who sat in my office and cried because he wanted to be in Bible class on Wednesday night but his father forced him to play on a baseball team in a vain attempt to relive his own childhood.

About half of all we ever learn is attained during the first five or six years of life. It's crucial that we have our children in Bible class during those years to set them on the course they need to follow throughout the remainder of their lives. The consequences of neglect are too colossal to even imagine, both for the child and for the parent.

Jim Mullican