



Rockwood Church of Christ

The Proclaimer

March 25, 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

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THE POWER OF ONE

William Crawford is still pretty put out with his two sons. He was running to retain his seat on the central committee of the Erie County (Ohio) Democratic Party in July. He and his challenger, David Giese, got exactly the same number of votes – 43 each. Now here's the hang-up. Crawford has two sons, both eligible to vote for their dad. But they didn't bother to cast a ballot. Andy is a college student who lives at home with mom and dad, and Jim lives just across the street from the family home. They simply chose to skip the election. Who knows why?

When you think about it, it's not really that big of a deal. The fate of the republic is not at stake. But it does illustrate the fact that we complicate our own lives and those of others by being disconnected and careless. Apathy is a terrible thing. I guess Jim and Andy had no idea they would put their father's position in jeopardy by failing to show up and vote. I'm sure there was no conspiracy to take down their father. It was simple negligence fostered by the common idea that one person just doesn't make all that much difference. I wonder if Eve thought that? Aren't you glad Noah didn't reason that way? What about Jesus? When Paul left Jerusalem to evangelize the Gentile world, did his efforts make a difference? I know that the phrase "make a difference" is so cliché these days, but you will almost surely have a decision to make today that may seem small or inconsequential to you, but may have long-term, even eternal consequences that will affect you and other people. Don't sell yourself and your influence short.

Some time ago I heard an old preacher say this. It's kinda silly, but it has some truth: "God has cast His vote for you to be saved and to live in righteousness, joy, and peace. The devil has voted for you to share hell with him forever. It's a tie. And you will cast the vote that decides the election." Think about the choices you make today.

Charles North

TEAMWORK

A team is defined as “a group of people working or playing together.” People functioning as a team can accomplish far more than people functioning as individuals. God has a team, and He expects teamwork from its members. **Ephesians 4:6-11** emphasizes who some of the members of His team are, the purpose the team is to accomplish, and the means of accomplishing that purpose.

For the welfare of the body, Christ ordained that there be certain positions (or, functions) in the church. Christ gave the gifts that were necessary for these functions to be filled by men when He ascended to the Father - **Ephesians 4:8, Therefore He says: "When He ascended on high, He led captivity captive, And gave gifts to men."** The duration of these functions varies according to need. If the need was temporary, the function was temporary. If the need was permanent, the function was permanent. Two of the functions (“apostles” and “prophets”) were temporary. Their work was for the beginning and infancy of the church. Earlier in Ephesians, Paul refers to them as a part of the foundation of the church (**2:20-21**). These functions were to continue till the system of faith had been given, which would allow for “oneness” (**cf. Jude 3**). Two of the functions, “evangelists” and “pastors and teachers”, are permanent. It should be noted that “pastors and teachers” share the same definite article and therefore refers to one function, “teaching pastors.” It should also be noted that the common use of the word “pastor” in today’s terminology does not mean the same as it does in the Bible. Today the word Pastor is use in the place of a minister or a preacher. But in the Bible the Pastor is the same as an Elder. I am not a Pastor and it is not scriptural to call me one. Most people have come to think of the preacher as the Pastor. One can only be a Pastor or Elder if they have the Biblical qualifications and have been appointed by the local church/congregation to that office. Their work was for every generation of the church (**2 Tim. 4:1-5; Acts 20:28-30**). Church leaders today must see themselves—and all other members—as a part of God’s team (**cf. 1 Cor. 3:6**).

Jesus placed these functions in the church for specific purposes, which are clearly outlined in this text. They are: Number one, to equip the saints for ministry. The idea is of putting something in proper working order. Every member of the church certainly needs to be equipped to minister. Number two, to edify the body. The idea is of constructing or building up the body. We should be on guard against error **Gal 1:7-8 “but there are some who trouble you and want to pervert the gospel of Christ. 8 But even if we, or an angel from heaven, preach any other gospel to you than what we have preached to you, let him be accursed.”** Church leaders today must be sure that these purposes are being fulfilled in our congregations, and that a “team spirit” is being developed.

Paul gives two ways this important work can be done. The truth must be spoken in love. “Truth” answers “What?” and “Love” answers “How?” It is the Word of God which builds us up (**Acts 20:32**). Everyone must be equipped to do his/her fair share. This emphasizes the importance of teamwork. Elders, deacons, preachers, Bible class teachers, song leaders, members etc. are part of a great team, and each of must do his/her part in order for the church to grow.

God has a plan, and things work so much better when that plan is followed. As we speak the truth in love, the body is strengthened, and a team spirit is developed. We must not look at the church as “they” or “them” but as “us” and “we” (**cf. 1 Cor. 12:12, 27**).

A long history of traditions and misunderstandings has taken the church today far away from what God intended for it to be and do. God has ordained that His work be done by people who are connected together in Christ (**Gal. 3:26-28**) and who are actively engaged together—as a team—in building up the kingdom. To do this, we must remember some important things: It is God’s team, and we are privileged to be a part of it. We all play different roles on this team. We all play our parts for the good of the whole body.

Kirby