



Rockwood Church of Christ

The Proclaimer

March 3, 2013

P.O. Box 416
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Rockwood, TN 37854
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Elders:

Dana Carter
Kenneth Carter
Don Chandler

Deacons:

Bobby Bear
Kendall Bear
Larry Brackett
Roger Carter
Steve McCreary

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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Rockwoodchurchofchrist.com

KEEPING WORSHIP SIMPLE

Many people today are struggling with something that is really quite simple. The controversy concerning the instrument continues, because instruments and their use in worship are becoming more mainstream. Even in churches that still affiliate themselves with the churches of Christ, instrumental music not only is coming up, but it is now becoming more accepted. For example, one church of Christ in a neighboring county explains it this way on their website – “The singing is a cappella, meaning that we worship without instruments. This is by choice, rather than doctrine. We find nothing wrong with instrumental worship, but believe that the voice alone is a simple and beautiful way to worship God.”

What a sad state of affairs.

What God wants us to know with regard to worship is quite simple. There is commandment, example, and authorization for singing in the New Testament church. None of these exist with regard to instrumental worship. The use of instruments in the worship of the church is not authorized by God. One can lament all they want to about it. One can dream about unity with denominational people. By taking the focus off of God and the Bible and putting the emphasis on human wishes, the correct view of Scripture becomes skewed by opinion.

Instrumental worship is unauthorized worship. Whether it be offered by Cain, Nadab and Abihu, or any Christian today, unauthorized worship is displeasing to God. God is the object of worship and we are the worshippers. Why speculate when God has already told us what to do in His Word? Why not honor God and His word? Why not worship Him in spirit and in truth?

What sets the church apart from the world and its religion is our love for God and one another so as to completely follow the Bible. Let's continue to be different and worship God the way God wants to be worshipped. This is worship that will both sanctify us and glorify our Creator.

*“But the hour is coming, and now is, when the true worshippers will worship the Father in spirit and truth; for the Father is seeking such to worship Him.” **John 4:23***

Jeremiah Tatum

WHY I AM A MEMBER OF THE CHURCH OF CHRIST

“But sanctify Christ as Lord in your hearts, always being ready to make a defense to everyone who asks you to give an account for the hope that is in you, yet with gentleness and reverence”

(I Peter 3:15)

For more than 94 years my family has served the Lord as members of the church of Christ. I have no greater blessing and no greater pleasure than to be in His church. The church Jesus built is a family (**I Timothy 3:15**), and His kingdom (**Matthew 16:18-19**). The Lord’s church is His bride (**Ephesians 5:23-24**), and His body (**Ephesians 1:22-23**).

The church Jesus built is not a denomination; it has no earthly headquarters and no structure above the local congregation. Instead, the church Jesus built is undenominational, pre-denominational, and anti-denominational. Sometimes people say the church is non-denominational, but this is a little confusing. While some non-denominational churches are not connected with any denomination, they see no error in denominationalism. The Scriptures, however, speak against the division of denominationalism (**John 17:20-23; I Corinthians 1:10-13; Galatians 5:19-21; Ephesians 4:1-6**).

At the heart of everything in the churches of Christ, one finds an unflinching commitment to Scripture and the Lord’s way. They are committed to following only the teaching of our Lord; and should they stray from the Word in doctrine or practice, they are committed to returning to the truth. They speak where the Lord speaks and are silent where the Lord is silent, because they love the Lord and want to please Him (**John 14:15; Colossians 1:10**).

Anyone’s greatest privilege is to know the Lord and to be in His family, the church. True Christians want everyone to know the Lord and to be saved (**I Timothy 2:3-4**). We preach the pure gospel, because it has the power to save (**Romans 1:16**). We reject error, because it leads people to be lost (**James 5:19-20**). We must preach the truth again and again so people might come to know the Lord.

Will you help SEARCH in this noble quest to reach people for the Lord Jesus Christ?

May the Lord be with you.

Phil Sanders