



Rockwood Church of Christ

The Proclaimer

October 2, 2011

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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Rockwoodchurchofchrist.com

SHOWING PARTIALITY

One morning, Henry Weisner was finishing some paper work in a large automobile dealership where he worked. He noticed a middle-aged man looking in the showroom window. Henry turned to one of the other salesman and said, "Joe, do you want to wait on that man?" Joe looked at the potential customer, roughly dressed, carrying a brown paper lunch bag, and said, "I don't think so. He probably came down to eat his lunch and look at the new cars." Henry pushed his papers aside and went over to the man. He greeted the potential customer with, "Good morning! Can I show you some of the new models?" The man answered, "I like the one near the door." Henry replied, "Fine. I'll show it to you." The man looked at it and sat in the driver's seat. Then he said to Henry, "I like this one. If I buy it now, can I take it home today?" Henry said, "Why yes, if we can get the credit approved that quickly." The man responded, "I don't want credit, I will pay cash." He then opened the brown bag, and it was full of cash!

In amazement, Henry said, "In that case, it's yours!" As he walked to the cashier's counter with the paper bag of money, Joe saw Henry and asked, "What's going on?" Henry replied, "Oh nothing. I am just taking Mr. Ferro's lunch to the cashier!"

A humorous story? Yes. But it illustrates an important lesson for the church. James wrote, "*If there should come into your assembly a man with gold rings in fine apparel, and there should also come in a poor man in filthy clothes, and you pay attention to the one wearing the fine clothes...have you not shown partiality among yourselves?...If you show partiality, you commit sin.*" (James 2:2-4, 9). Think about it. **Charles Pugh III**

A LACK OF COMMITMENT

I often ask my Bible classes and various study groups why so many marriages are failing. Most often the answer you hear is, “the lack of commitment” or someone might say, “they don’t stick it out; they go in thinking if it doesn’t work out, we’ll just get a divorce.” Unfortunately, this is too often the case.

While I might not possess all the answers to the marriage, divorce and remarriage questions of our day, I do know what God wants! In **Matthew 19:6**, Christ said, “*What God hath joined together, let not man put asunder.*” While due to the hardness of their hearts Moses permitted divorce, Jesus said that, “*From the beginning it was not so.*” (**Matthew 19:8**) No words could be clearer than these. God wants couples to stay together. While attending the Christian Training Series at Freed-Hardeman University, Mike Cravens, a professor at the university, offered the following twelve attributes which help families stay committed to each other:

1. **Respect**...to and for each person in the relationship.
2. **Trust**...of one another, and the need for one another.
3. **Acceptance**...it helps create unity.
4. **Common goals**...gives life direction and purpose.
5. **Affirmation**...helps one know he or she is appreciated.
6. **Unselfishness**...the very core of it all.
7. **Responsibility**...the ability to respond to others’ needs.
8. **Understanding**...empathy; being able to feel with and for each other.
9. **Honesty**...speaking the truth in love.
10. **Participation**...sharing of tasks, being together.
11. **Traditions**...creating your own, within the family.
12. **Religion**...gives roots and support.

All of these truths are embodied in the teaching of Christ. The proper application of Christ and His teaching will make the difference in the home.

“The winds blew and beat against the house; yet it did not fall because it had its foundation on a rock.” (Matthew 7:24-27).

Tim Shoulders