



# Rockwood Church of Christ

## The Proclaimer

April 14, 2019

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**Elders:**

Dana Carter  
Kenneth Carter  
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**Deacons:**

Kendall Bear  
Larry Brackett  
Steve McCreary

**Minister:**

Todd Houston

**Secretary:**

Susan Chandler

**Service Times:**

**Sunday**

Bible Study 10 am  
Worship Service 10:45 am  
Worship Service 6 pm

**Wednesday**

Bible Study 7:00 pm

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## CHILD-LIKE HUMILITY

*“Therefore, whoever humbles himself like this child is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven” (Matthew 18:4).*

As wonderful as children are, we as a society would think it foolish to hold children up as the ideal for adults to emulate in every way. Youngsters are shortsighted, tending to choose the things that bring them an immediate reward. They are often selfish and need discipline to keep them from becoming little “tyrants.” We are supposed to be patient with these weaknesses, because we know that small children are immature. But, according to the Savior, they do have one quality that we should wholeheartedly recommend: HUMILITY!

Jesus must have surprised everyone listening to Him when He called a small child aside as an object lesson to His disciples. He wasn't recommending the concepts of being easily fooled, or lacking in maturity, or the desire for the pleasure of the moment. Rather, Jesus pointed out this outstanding virtue of humility. He said, *“Whoever humbles himself like this child is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven.”* The “rank conscious” disciples had been arguing about who was going to be first. They, like many of us even today, were caught up in their concern for status and position. Small children have no such concern. They accept their place in the family under the leadership of dad and mom. They know instinctively that they need the help and protection of the parents. When assured of the parents' love, they even submit to discipline when they are disobedient.

In the church today, it is easy to begin gauging where we “stand” with one another by looking at titles and position. But instead of walking like the world around us, the Lord calls us to be like little children – acknowledging our weakness, recognizing His place at the Head of our lives, and joyfully submitting to His Word. That is the difference between childlike humility....and childishness.

**Nathan Jorgenson**

# ABIDE IN THE SAME CALLING

Do the best you can in whatever circumstances you face. Your situation in life is never completely ideal. Make the most of it regardless of the obstacles. There are some circumstances you can change, there are some you cannot. But you can live the Christian life either way. Earthly conditions don't last. Even here they change quickly. So focus on the state of your soul, not on the advantages or disadvantages of your physical environment.

Joseph made the best out of a bad situation. So did Daniel. Do your best to have the same attitude. This is Paul's lesson in **I Corinthians 7:17-24**. He is teaching these Christians about marriage. Some of them were married to non-Christians. That is not the best or ideal situation, but it is not sinful, and God says it is a marriage and so you are to do the best you can. Paul says to stay with your mate (vv. 12-13), even if your spouse is not a Christian.

To illustrate this point, Paul uses other examples. The first is circumcision. This was not just a physical matter. It was a sign of the separation of Jews and Gentiles. Uncircumcision meant you were a Gentile; circumcision signified you were a Jew. Being a Gentile meant you would be shunned by Jews. Being a Jew meant you would be resented by the Gentiles. But Paul said it didn't matter (vv. 18-19). Neither state makes you any better or worse off in God's sight. So be content in whichever of these states you were called in and stay there.

The second example is slavery. Many Christians in Paul's day were slaves. Their situation was not ideal. Sometimes masters were harsh; that is what Peter talked about (**I Peter 2:18-20**). Paul said if you can be set free then use the opportunity (v. 20). If you cannot, then don't worry about it (v. 21). You can be a Christian and go to heaven either way.

This is a valuable lesson. No matter how good your situation in life is, there will always be things you wish you could change. No matter how bad the circumstances are, you can always be a Christian because you always have a friend in Jesus. "*Be content with such things as ye have; for He hath said, I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee*" (**Hebrews 13:6**).

Marriage is not always an ideal relationship. You may want a perfect wedding with a happy ending, but reality can be far different. There are ups and downs. Personalities clash. Sin destroys trust and robs the home of joy. Religious differences cause friction. Children interfere and betray. Death can come calling at any time. The important thing is to trust in God and live for Him regardless of what happens.

Paul said your material status or the state of your marriage is not what's most important. Whether you are married to a Christian, are married to a non-Christian, are not married at all, or were married but lost your spouse, his message is the same. This life is short, and your earthly conditions are temporary. It's your soul that really matters.

A word of caution is in order about Paul's words. He is not talking about sinful situations. He is not saying, for instance, that if you were living in a sinful situation like adultery or fornication when you were baptized, it's right to stay in that relationship. That would go against everything he has already said. Paul is not telling anyone to stay in an unscriptural marriage. Some have abused this passage to try to justify unbiblical unions, and this is twisting what Paul said.

**Kerry Duke**