



# Rockwood Church of Christ

## The Proclaimer

August 11, 2019

P.O. Box 416  
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**Elders:**

Dana Carter  
Kenneth Carter  
Don Chandler

**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

**Email:**

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**Website:**

Rockwoodchurchofchrist.com

## Have You Ever Noticed...

...when the other fellow acts that way, he is ugly; when you do, it is nerves.

...when others are set in their ways, they're obstinate; when you are, it is firmness.

...when your neighbor doesn't like your friend, he is prejudiced; when you don't like his, you are a good judge of human nature.

...when he tries to treat someone especially well, he's guilty of insincere flattery; when you try it, you are being thoughtful.

...when he takes time to do things well, he's a slowpoke or lazy; when you do, you are deliberate and careful.

...when he spends a lot, he is a spendthrift; when you do, you're generous.

...when someone picks flaws in things, he's cranky and critical; when you do, you are creative.

...when he is mild-mannered, you call him weak; when you are, it's graciousness.

...when someone dresses especially well, that person is extravagant; when you do, it is tastefulness.

...when he says what he thinks, he's spiteful; when you do, you are being frank.

...when he takes great risks in business, he's foolhardy; when you do, you are a wise financier.

Jesus said that we should love our neighbors as we love ourselves (**Matthew 22:39**). Therefore, we should extend the same grace and benefit of the doubt to our neighbors as we do to ourselves. It is wrong to condemn others for what we practice.

**B.J. Clarke**

# NO SUCH THING AS A BAD QUESTION?

It's often said that there's no such thing as a bad question. Like many things that are often said, it's just not true. We know what's intended by the statement – establishing a safe atmosphere for inquiry, putting people at ease, and engaging others in the learning process. All of these are noble goals. But these goals can be reached through better means.

Bad questions exist. We're wise to recognize this truth. We're even wiser to recognize bad questions both when we hear them and before we ask them.

Some questions are bad because of their intention. Remember the serpent's question to Eve, "*Has God indeed said, 'You shall not eat of every tree of the garden?'*" (**Genesis 3:1**). The question drips with evil intent. It invites Eve to focus on being restricted and denied opportunity. It invites Eve to doubt the goodness and veracity of God. It's stage one of temptation, stage one of the fall.

We see the same danger in **Genesis 4:9**. When asked by God, "*Where is Abel your brother?*" Cain replied, "*I do not know. Am I my brother's keeper?*" Not only was the intent of the question evil – denying responsibility, the question itself was a lie. Cain knew exactly where the body of his brother was. He tried to use a question to hide his sin from God.

**Numbers 22:19** implies another category of bad questions. Baalam knew that God forbade his going with Balak's servants to curse the Israelites (**Numbers 22:12-13**). Yet, when Balak's servants return with bigger gifts, Baalam says, "*Now, therefore, please, you also stay here tonight, that I may know what more the Lord will say to me.*" Evidently, he planned to ask God to reconsider. While not always bad to ask again, in this case it was.

Some questions are bad because their intention is to criticize, belittle, or trap. We see this in **Matthew 9:11 & 14**. The Pharisees were not asking in order to learn. **Matthew 9:23-24** shows that their hearts weren't right. We also see this in **Exodus 5:2**, "*And Pharaoh said, 'Who is the Lord that I should obey His voice to let Israel go?'*" Pharaoh had no desire for information about God. The verse continues, "*I do not know the Lord, nor will I let Israel go.*" The intention of the question was to belittle, perhaps even to deny God!

Some questions are bad because their intention is to deny the truth of God. We remember Pilate's famous question to Jesus. "*What is truth?*" (**John 18:38**). **II Peter 3:4** reports a question asked by scoffers, "*Where is the promises of His coming?*" These scoffers answer their question, "*For since the fathers fell asleep, all things continue as they were from the beginning of creation.*" The question was designed to deny the second coming of Christ. Scripture is clear, and Scripture is right. Some questions should not be asked.

**Bill Bagents**