



Rockwood Church of Christ

The Proclaimer

August 30, 2015

P.O. Box 416
129 S. Chamberlain Ave.
Rockwood, TN 37854
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Elders:

Dana Carter
Kenneth Carter
Don Chandler

Deacons:

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 10:00 a.m.

Email:

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Rockwoodchurchofchrist.com

BE YE KIND

Whoever said, "Pick your friends, but not to pieces," knew what he was talking about. Any healthy relationship will thrive in an atmosphere of understanding and mutual forbearance; but continual, carping criticism does nothing but destroy. Pettiness has driven a bitter wedge through many a friendship.

The Bible instructs, "*Let all bitterness, and wrath, and anger, and clamor, and evil speaking, be put away from you, with all malice; and be ye kind one to another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God for Christ's sake hath forgiven you*" (**Ephesians 4:31-32**).

And, again, the Word of God admonishes, "*Be ye all of one mind, having compassion one of another, love as brethren, be pitiful, be courteous, not rendering evil for evil, or railing for railing: but contrariwise blessing*" (**I Peter 3:8-9**).

And still again, we are encouraged by the Spirit's sound teaching: "*With all lowliness and meekness, with longsuffering, forbearing one another in love*" (**Ephesians 4:2**).

In short, we are expected to get along with one another; to be kind and forgiving toward one another; to have genuine compassion for one another; to forbear with one another "in love." And what is this but the "golden rule" in practice? (**Matthew 7:12**). We would have others show kindness to us. We would have others minimize our weaknesses and emphasize and encourage our strengths. Should we not then treat others as we would have them treat us?

Remember this: many people are lonely because they've spent a lifetime building walls instead of bridges. Be ye kind!
Dalton Key

WAY OF LIFE

There is an expression sometimes used by people to explain behavior. It goes something like this – “That is just the way I am” or “That is just the way he/she is.” People do have “ways.” Billy Joel even wrote these lyrics, “She’s got a way about her, don’t know what it is, but I know that I can’t live without her.” Everybody is unique, and every person has a certain way they go about living their life.

But one thing each individual should keep in mind is that we are not locked into a certain lifestyle. The liar doesn’t have to lie just because he has always been a liar. The same could be said for any other sin. The fact is that we choose our way of living. We make a decision about who we are and what we believe every single day.

Since such is the case, then we can also change the way we practice our Christianity. We don’t have to be Sunday morning only Christians, even if that is all we have ever been. We don’t have to keep from being more involved in the work of the church, just because we have never been involved in the past. We don’t have to lack zeal for evangelism, just because in our former days we have lacked the nerve necessary to save a lost soul.

What we need to do is really simple. We need to pray earnestly that God will change our hearts and make us aware of our spiritual shortcomings. Then we need to follow up by changing our behavior and making a habit of doing the things we have always wanted to do for Christ. We can change our way of life! We can do things differently than we have done them in the past!

Peter wrote about the importance of no longer living the rest of our time in the flesh for the sake of sin, but instead, living for the will of God (**I Peter 4:2**). The point is that God has the power to not only save us from death; He has the power to change our life for today. That is a very exciting proposition! We don’t have to wait until Jesus comes again to be blessed. We can be blessed immediately by simply making the choice to live for God today.

We need to stop making excuses for our lack of involvement in the kingdom. We must stop saying to ourselves that who we are and what we practice is good enough. We must stop telling ourselves that the way we live our Christian life is as good as we can do, because that is just the way we are.

Faithfulness is a way of life. Commitment is a way of life. Evangelism is a way of life. Humility is a way of life. Kindness is a way of life. We can do anything we want to do. We can be anything we want to be. Nothing is impossible with God! *“For to me to live is Christ...”* **Philippians 1:21.**

Jeremiah Tatum