



Rockwood Church of Christ

The Proclaimer

December 14, 2014

P.O. Box 416
129 S. Chamberlain Ave.
Rockwood, TN 37854
865-354-0855

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 am

Email:

rockwdcc@gmail.com

Website:

Rockwoodchurchofchrist.com

WHAT BROUGHT YOU HERE?

This morning churches across our nation will fill up with people gathering together for different reasons. For some it was the social interaction. For some it was to check the “go to church” box off our checklist. For some it was because someone made them. For some it was a habit. For some it was to see the visiting preacher. For some it was the dinner following services. For some it was the singing. For some it was a search for something that is missing. For some it was a desire to worship God in Spirit and truth. For some it was to feel good. For some it was to look good. For some it was good business. For some it was to surprise a loved one. For some it was to hear the band. For some it was to catch up on the latest gossip. For some it was to make things right with God. For some it was to take their children. For some it was to take their grandchildren. For some it was to ask for help. For some it was to see if someone needed help. For some it was because their name was down to perform a duty during the service. For some they had nothing better to do. For some it was to find the problems so they never had to return. For some it is a feeling of guilt that they must atone for. For some it was because a religious leader wants extra funds for the collection plate. For some it was to find a new church home. Here is our question: **why are we here?**

In today’s world, most have lost sight of the fact that God spends as much time asking why we go to church as He does asking if we go to church. God wants our hearts and minds to come together in holy worship to Him. We want our lives to benefit from the teachings found in His Word. He wants us to be edified while at the same time edifying those around us. Many may not think about why they come to church, but we all should. We should examine our motives to make sure they are pure in God’s sight. Only then will we truly gain the benefits of going to church!

Walter Rayburn

THE CHURCH ROLL & BODY PARTS

In our ongoing efforts to be the church, the body of Christ, I can't help but wonder if many folks are missing some vital points. We rightly preach baptism for remission of sins (**Acts 2:38**). We rightly teach that it is God who adds us to His church (**Acts 2:47**), and ultimately, He is the one who truly "knows those who are His" (**II Timothy 2:19**). I think we also rightly teach that it is appropriate for a person to make it known that he or she wants to "join" (place membership with) a local congregation (**Acts 9:26**). We thus rightly teach that the "church" is universal, yet there are "local churches" (**Matthew 16:16; Acts 20:17; I Corinthians 1:1, 2**).

Most, if not all congregations keep a "roll" of some sort, composed of names and addresses of Christians and their families and who regularly attend worship and Bible study assemblies in that location. Congregations (out of love) try to care for one another and provide for families during sickness and death; weddings and births. It has been my experience through the years, that Christians prove themselves to be extremely compassionate and generous.

However, I am afraid there are Christians who look at this roll (directory, call it what you will) as a document similar to a benefits resume of an auto club or something similar. I fear that such an understanding goes something like this: "I am a member of this congregation (have been for years) and I will come to church when I want to do so. I expect the congregation to give a shower to me or my children when we get married or have children, no matter the circumstances surrounding either event. I expect my sickness/death and any sickness/death in my family to be announced. And I expect for my family to be fed when I or my relatives die. If you deny me any of these rights, imply that I am not a member of this church, or question my behavior, I have the right to criticize you and become a member of some other congregation. After all, this is not the only church in the area."

Now, the above statement may not be an exact group of sentences spoken, but you and I know that the behavior of some Christians reflects such an attitude. We can indeed know people by their fruits (**Matthew 7:16**).

On any given Sunday, there are far fewer people present for worship than are listed on a roll or in a directory. Cases of those sick or on journeys are easily taken into account. However, the current state of affairs in many congregations shows that multitudes are "members" in name only, and exhibit attitudes similar to that above.

Paul wrote, "*Now you are the body of Christ and individual members of it*" (**I Corinthians 12:27, ESV**). It is crystal clear, from the context, that he is referring to body parts that are present and functioning, not membership benefits. Question: If the other members (body parts) don't know where you are for weeks and months at a time, are you really a body part?

Lance Cordle