



# Rockwood Church of Christ

## The Proclaimer

February 11, 2018

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

Dana Carter  
Kenneth Carter  
Don Chandler

**Deacons:**

Kendall Bear  
Larry Brackett  
Roger Carter  
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 7:30 pm

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## BEAUTIFUL

We expect the artists of our day, such as poets, composers, and painters, to point the masses to another world by exciting the senses and exposing the world to that which is beautiful. Such was the case with the Biblical poets as well. The Psalmist often spoke of the amazing beauty of God. *“One thing have I asked of the LORD, that will I seek after: that I may dwell in the house of the LORD all the days of my life, to gaze upon the beauty of the LORD and to inquire in His temple” (Psalm 27:4).* *“Out of Zion, the perfection of beauty, God shines forth” (Psalm 50:2).* *“Splendor and majesty are before Him; strength and beauty are in His sanctuary” (Psalm 96:6).* God Himself is beautiful, and the source of all that is beautiful.

Additionally, God has asked that His creation participate with Him in beauty. In **Matthew 26:10**, Jesus praised the woman who anointed Him with ointment and helped to prepare Him for His burial. He said, *“She has done a beautiful thing to Me.”* The beauty was found in sacrifice. The oil was extremely valuable and could have been sold for a substantial sum. Her willingness to humble herself and spend all on Christ was beautiful. Jesus said *“Greater love has no one than this, that someone lay down his life for his friends” (John 15:13).* The willingness to sacrifice Himself is what draws people to Christ (**John 12:32-33; I Peter 2:24; Hebrews 10:12**). It seems counterintuitive to say someone brutally beaten, tortured, and murdered was participating in the most beautiful act that man has ever known, but that is exactly the case with Jesus. It is dreadful, but it is beautiful.

God also desires for His children to share good news with each other. Specifically, he wants the world to proclaim the message of His Son, Jesus. *“As it is written, ‘How beautiful are the feet of those who preach the good news!’” (Romans 10:15; Isaiah 52:7).* The Lord says that it is beautiful when one person shares the Gospel with another and gives them hope. God desires that His creatures seek beauty and that they participate in it.

When was the last time you participated in something truly beautiful?

**By Bart Warren**

# THE THREE R's OF A GREAT MARRIAGE

June is definitely the month for weddings, and this past June I presided over two weddings and attended another one. Weddings are stressful, but exciting times. It's very moving to witness the joining of the lives of a man and a woman in holy matrimony. It brings to mind thoughts of optimism and hope for the future. As far as my advice to newlyweds goes, I usually offer three "R's" to a sound, successful and spectacular marriage.

**Romance** – Love is a key element to keeping a marriage vibrant. It is because of love that a marriage should take place, and it is love that keeps the heart of a healthy marriage beating soundly (**Song of Solomon 2:4-5; 4:1ff; 8:6-7; I Corinthians 7:5**).

**Relationship** – When a marriage takes place, the two become one flesh and they begin a holy, permanent relationship with one another, and with God (**Matthew 19:4-6**). A marriage will only survive when people are dedicated to one another exclusively and intensely (**Ephesians 5:25-28; Titus 2:4**). A marriage will only flourish when the relationship in the marriage is one of sharing and caring (**Hebrews 13:16**).

**Responsibility** – When two people are wed, a husband and a wife are created. Each have Biblical responsibilities in their respective roles (**I Peter 3:1-7; Colossians 3:18-19**). For a marriage to make it as God desires, each must take their spousal duties seriously and fully implement them as God has designed.

It would be good for all of us who are married to do an inventory check of these three "R's" often to make sure we are doing our part in keeping our marriages active and alive. But there is another application to these: Christians are well aware that they are a part of the church, the bride of Christ (**II Corinthians 11:2; Revelation 19:7; 21:2**). As a bride to Christ, these should apply spiritually to us, also.

**Romance** – Christian are you "in love" with Christ? Do you "keep falling in love with Him over and over and over again?" Does your love for Him grow stronger as time goes by? (**Mark 12:30; I Corinthians 16:22; Ephesians 6:24**).

**Relationship** – Christian, do you maintain the special relationship and communion you have with Christ? Do you regularly fellowship with Him? Do you deepen your relationship with Him through study and prayer? (**II Peter 3:18; I John 1:3**).

**Responsibility** – Christians, do you take your promise to remain faithful in Christ seriously? Do you perform your duties of love and service with joy? Do you honor Him in all you do? (**Romans 12:2; Colossians 3:17; I Peter 1:7; Revelation 2:10**).

A great marriage upon the earth is a wonderful blessing. Let us do what we can to make them as good as they can be. But, as Christians we must also remember that we are spiritually wed to Christ, and that "marriage" needs to be the best that it can be, also.

**By Edd Sterchi**