



Rockwood Church of Christ

The Proclaimer

February 8, 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.

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HOW OFTEN TO TAKE THE 'FEAST of LOVE'

I recently read a fascinating article by John H. Armstrong in the September 2014, issue of *Christianity Today*. Armstrong starts out reminiscing on early childhood worship experiences in the denomination he attended. He writes that his church celebrated the Lord's Supper "four times a year. I remember asking why we celebrated it so infrequently. The answer I got never satisfied, and it still doesn't: 'If we do this very often, it will lose its meaning'" (51). He goes on to say, "As I grew older, I discovered some churches took the meal weekly. I was then even more dissatisfied with the answer I had received" (ibid.).

He goes on to write a mostly historical examination of the Lord's Supper, looking at the debates and developments of church history. At the end, he summarizes by saying, "...{younger Christians} desire to receive the meal more often. And some of them – as I did when I was younger – have started attending congregations that take Communion every week" (53). The reasons given are that each observance gives us the opportunity to focus on Jesus' crucifixion, express the unity of the body, and reflects our personal identity in Christ (ibid.). In other words, it offers commemoration, examination, and expectation. We need that on an ongoing basis, and the Lord knew we would. That is why He pointed ahead to a certain frequency when He established it, saying He would do it again when He established His Kingdom (**Mark 14:25**). Paul says it was to be done with a certain frequency (**I Corinthians 11:25** – "as often as"). Thankfully, Luke shows us how frequently it was taken (**Acts 20:7** – "on the first day of the week").

It is good to understand that the Bible establishes the frequency of our observation of the Lord's Supper, but it is also important to know why we take it each week. We look up, look back, look within, look around, and look ahead. Our all-wise God knew we would need this every time we assembled with our spiritual family. Though so many have lost sight of its frequency, may we never lose sight of its significance!

Neal Pollard

ME OR WE?

The story is told of an encounter between a high school principal and a young ninth grader. The principal noticed the young man in the hallway with a very defeated and frustrated look on his face. He asked the young man, “Is everything okay?” The boy replied sternly, “No. I don’t understand all the stuff the math teacher is trying to teach us. I can’t understand all the letters, formulas, and logarithms. It’s impossible.”

The principal, with an encouraging tone, said, “I’m sure we can work hard and do it, can’t we?” The boy quickly said, with a condescending tone, “Well, I guess ‘we’ can say that, because the ‘you’ half of ‘we’ doesn’t have to do the homework and take the tests with the ‘me’ half of ‘we.’”

As members of the body of Christ, we should never feel alone. We shouldn’t feel like we are experiencing the challenges and struggles of living in this world without the sympathy, support, and love of our fellow brothers and sisters in Christ. The local church is a “we” and not a “me” organization. It is a family and not just an assembly (**I Timothy 3:15, 5:1-2**). It is not simply a gathering of people who worship together at prescribed times, but a brotherhood (**I Peter 2:17**), and an intimate communion (**II Corinthians 6:14**).

The local body is a place of encouragement (**Hebrews 10:24-25**). It is a place where the weak can find strength (**I Thessalonians 5:14**). It is a place where the fainthearted can find courage (**I Thessalonians 5:14**). It is a place where burdens are carried together (**Galatians 6:2**). It is a place where suffering is relieved (**I Corinthians 12:26**). It is a place where common struggles are experienced and understood (**I Peter 5:9**). It is a place where a person can receive needed admonishment and exhortation (**Romans 15:14**). It is a place where genuine and sincere love can be enjoyed (**I Peter 1:22**).

Paul, in a very familiar passage, tells the brethren in Corinth that they are individual members of the same body. He illustrates this by a comparison to the human body (**I Corinthians 12**). In other words, they have all different kinds of parts (foot, ear, eyes, etc.) but just one body. As we read through the New Testament, we can see that God designed and envisioned the local church as a place where believers would enjoy tight-knit intimacy and share their lives together, not just a pew on Sundays and Wednesdays.

“And if one member suffers, all the members suffer with it; or if one member is honored, all the members rejoice with it” (**I Corinthians 12:26**).

Joe Williams