



Rockwood Church of Christ

The Proclaimer

February 9, 2020

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Elders:

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Kenneth Carter
Don Chandler

Deacons:

Kendall Bear
Larry Brackett
Larry Hill
Steve McCreary

Minister:

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Secretary:

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Service Times:

Sunday

Bible Study 10 am
Worship Service 10:45 am
Worship Service 6 pm

Wednesday

Bible Study 7:00 pm

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A VITAL INGREDIENT

One of the more honest T-shirt logos this preacher has noticed in recent years is, “Does not play well with others.” Of all the burdens that Paul mentioned bearing, the last was, “...that which cometh upon me daily, the care of all the churches” (**II Corinthians 11:28**).

Getting along with others is learned behavior. It takes work. One of the attributes essential to getting along with others is also an essential characteristic of love. It is also mentioned among the traits necessary for keeping the unity of the Spirit. Paul even included it in his instruction to preachers as vital to their work.

Consider these passages together, and the essential ingredient should become obvious:

“Charity suffereth long, and is kind; charity envieth not; charity vaunteth not itself, is not puffed up” (**I Corinthians 13:4**).

“With all lowliness and meekness, with long suffering, forbearing one another in love” (**Ephesians 4:2**).

“Preach the word; be instant in season, out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort with all longsuffering and doctrine” (**II Timothy 4:2**).

Being “*long suffering*” is a beautiful Biblical concept. It is virtually self-explanatory; “*long suffering*” means to “suffer along with another.” Whether it be our quirky personalities, our different ways of expressing ourselves, our predictable behaviors, our struggles with or anything else, we must learn to bear with one another. Perfection is something that will only be realized at the coming of Christ.

By J. Brooks Boyd, Jr.

He Came

It was toward the end of March in 2006. A tragedy took place in a small west Tennessee town. The news of the tragedy quickly spread through the town, across the state, and then throughout the nation. The various news networks in our nation reported the news of this unreal event near the beginning of their newscasts. Almost immediately talk shows, both on the local and national and levels examined the tragedy and often reached false conclusions which coldly and cruelly indicted the Lord's church. The small town where it happened was beyond stunned. Relatives and close friends experienced emotions they had probably never felt. Lives were changed in an instant and they would never be completely the same.

A gospel preacher's son, who himself was a gospel preacher, had been torturously shot by his wife. I cannot begin to imagine the grief of the parents of the young man and also of his three daughters. How could such a tragedy in one's family ever be processed in the minds of the family members?

Just after nightfall, less than twenty-four hours following the tragedy, a well-known gospel preacher and former university professor came to the home of the grieving family. He had driven approximately two hours. He knocked on the door, and when it was answered, the family member saw he had brought his overnight bag. He had come to spend the night with his dear friend who was tormented with hurt, inward pain, and grief. He came to listen to his friend, who was trying to process what had happened. I am sure that at various intervals through that night they prayed together. The friend had not come to offer any advice. He had simply come to be with his friend.

Think with me about some lessons we can learn from this preacher who came to visit his friend:

Our lives are to be more than about our personal concerns. There are lonely, discouraged, and hurting. While we have a duty to reach out to all people who are suffering, as we have opportunity, there is a special concern we are to have toward our beloved brethren (**Galatians 6:9-10**).

We need to be watchful for people who may need our assistance. The apostle Paul exhorted, "*Let each of you look not only to his own interests, but also to the interests of others*" (**Philippians 2:4**).

Sometimes our presence with someone who is hurting is the greatest gift we can give. **Galatians 6:2** enjoins us, "*Bear one another's burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ.*"

Bruce Ligon