



Rockwood Church of Christ

The Proclaimer

January 10, 2021

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Elders:

Kendall Bear
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Don Chandler

Deacons:

Larry Brackett
Aaron Evans
Larry Hill
Steve McCreary

Minister:

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Service Times:

Sunday

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

Wednesday

Bible Study 7 pm

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Upside Down

What impact should you as a Christian have on society? Should you be passive or active in the lives of the people around you? How do we help people become better? How can we help the sinner become a saint? We are sometimes reluctant to become involved in social change. We would rather let our acquaintances “discover” that we are Christians than to talk to them about Christianity. We prefer to coexist with rather than to confront sinners. And we often ignore sin rather than to expose it even though we would never engage in it. The early church got involved. They changed lives by exposing sin wherever it was found, even among politicians (**Acts 24:24, 25**). They confronted sinners “head on,” even sinners in the church (**Acts 5:1-11 [lying]; 1 Corinthians 5: 1-13 [sexual sins, covetousness, revilers, drunkards, etc.]**). They lived exemplary lives and proclaimed the gospel plainly to those living in sin.

The result was that people left idolatry and began to worship the true and living God (**Acts 19:24-28**); sinful people burned their books of magic and became people of The Book (**Acts 17:18,19**); and lives changed so dramatically that their old friends “thought it strange” that the Christians “no longer ran with them” to riotous living (**1 Peter 4:4**). In a word, the early Christians “turned the world upside down” and changed the culture in which they lived (**Acts 17:6**).

Christianity is all about social change and if we really seek to restore New Testament Christianity we must get involved (expose sin; confront sinners; talk about Jesus and His way of life)! If each member of the church will do these things we will also turn our world upside down.

Alton Norman

Will Our Kids Tear Their Clothes?

When I was a kid in the 70's, tearing your clothes was a tragic thing. A mother's admonition was, "Don't tear a hole in your jeans, or I'll have to patch them!" Tearing your clothes was an accidental, tragic thing, usually occurring due to a child's negligence.

In Bible times, though, tearing one's clothes was an intentional act, signifying anguish or mourning. One example of this is found in **2 Kings 22:11-13**. After Hilkiah the high priest found the lost Book of the Law, it was given to Josiah the King. When he heard the words of the book, he said, "*our fathers have not obeyed the words of this book, to do according to all that is written concerning us*" (**2 Kings 22:13**). Josiah tore his clothes because of the negligence of his fathers that went before him.

Will our own children metaphorically tear their clothes some day? They will if we don't teach them some of the things Josiah knew on that day:

The true nature of God. Josiah realized the people were in danger because of their negligence with God's word. God is love (**1 John 4:8**), but He is also a God of justice and judgment (**Romans 2:1-11**). If we don't teach our children the truth about the nature of God, someday our children will rend their clothes in agony, wondering why we didn't remain faithful and tell them the truth!

The true nature of idolatry. Among the forms of idolatry Josiah stamped out was the sacrificing of children on the altar of Molech (**2 Kings 23:10**). We have modern-day Molech worship going on today, except the babies are being sacrificed in the womb, on the altar of "self." Will our children one day grow up and tear their clothes, wondering why we didn't do more to stop this?

The true nature of salvation. Josiah recognized that the nation was in great danger because they did not "*do according to all that is written concerning us*" (**2 Kings 22:13**). Some worldly people today say there is no need for obedience to the Lord in order to be saved, but the Scriptures teach the opposite (**Hebrews 5:8-9**). Will our children tear their clothes someday, wondering why we didn't help them know this?

Let's make sure our children don't experience the pain and anguish of knowing their ancestors dropped the ball spiritually. Stay faithful, and leave a good legacy for generations to come.

Matt Clifton