



Rockwood Church of Christ

The Proclaimer

January 28, 2024

P.O. Box 416
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Elders:

Kendall Bear
Dana Carter
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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Relationships Are Like Old Barns

Not too long ago I read the story of a farmer who was just devastated over the fact that his barn's roof fell in. Someone asked the farmer, "*what happened?*" The farmer told the one asking the question that the roof had been leaking so long that the timbers just rotted through.

Of course, one's initial thought is why did he let the roof get so bad before fixing it? Here was the farmer's response: "*Well...it just seemed...when the weather was good, there weren't no need for it, and when it rained, it was too wet to work on it.*"

I find that relationships are much like that old barn in the story. Could it be that some of our relationships are on the brink of collapsing because efforts have not been made all along to strengthen their infrastructure? What do you think will happen to that relationship when the next major storm of life develops?

How many marriages will fall apart tomorrow because, while at the moment things are good, constant efforts are not being made to strengthen the resolve to love one another "*until death do us part*" (**Eph. 5:19ff**)?

How many children will leave home never to communicate with father and mother again because at this very moment fathers are not getting involved in the lives of their children, and mothers are not instilling discipline in their children to grow up to be faithful Christians (**Eph. 6:1-4**)?

While today may be a good day, and I hope that it is, don't forget that tomorrow a storm could come, and it will all fall apart if efforts are not made each day to strengthen those relationships.

Want to have good, healthy relationships? Commit regularly to the little things so that when the big issues arise, the roof doesn't collapse!

Neil Richey
Marietta, GA

No Confusion on Marriage

In my work as a minister, I have had several opportunities to conduct weddings. There was never any confusion as to which person was the “*bride*” in contrast to the “*bridegroom*.” The woman was always the bride. The man was always the bridegroom. Each and every time, this was reflected in the language I used when officiating at the ceremony. For example, I would begin the nuptials by saying something like: “*Dearly beloved, we are here gathered together in the sight of God to join together this man and this woman in holy matrimony.*”

As the ceremony progressed, I would ask the groom: “*will you have this woman to be your wedded wife.*” Similarly, I would quiz the bride: “*will you have this man to be your wedded husband.*” Finally, the man and woman would be pronounced as married and presented as husband and wife. This language, as it pertains to the husband/wife relationship between a man and a woman, reflects the traditional view of marriage between two people of the opposite sex.

According to history, a marital union between a male and a female is the way that marriage has always been understood. Recently, however, those promoting homosexual marriages have had to take steps to change the language on marriage certificates and in wedding ceremonies from this traditional wording. By their own admission a “*gay marriage*” does not involve a “*husband*” and “*wife*” relationship.

Even more importantly, this language of a “*husband/wife*” relationship reflects the biblical view of marriage. For example, one apostle said, “*Husbands love your wives even as Christ also loved the church*” (**Eph. 5:25**). Another said, “*In like manner, you wives be in subjection to your own husbands*” (**1 Pet. 3:1**). The biblical view is that marriage is a union between “*husband*” and “*wife.*” This is related by the very language used. There has never been a time within biblical history in which God conveyed that two men or two women could legitimately be married to one another. From the sacred text marriage is always depicted as being between a male and a female. Tragically, the moral values of within the United States, and throughout the world, are deteriorating at a rapid pace. This is reflected by the clamor for the acceptance of “*gay marriage*” or “*same sex marriage*” in which two people of the same gender may be legally married by law. In order to do so, however, they must reject both the language of tradition and the Bible.

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