



Rockwood Church of Christ

The Proclaimer

July 15, 2018

P.O. Box 416
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Rockwood, TN 37854
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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

Email:

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GREETINGS

When you think of your home congregation, what are some words you would use to describe it? Active, warm, loving, sincere, giving, evangelistic or cold, dead, apathetic, stuck in a rut, cliquish. Part of how your home congregation can be described is directly related to your role in that same congregation. If you are consistently warm and friendly, the congregation is warm and friendly because you help make up the church. If you keep to yourself or just go through the motions, the congregation does, too, because you help make up the church! You definitely have an effect on the Lord's church. How the church is seen in your community depends on what you do or don't do every time you meet with the saints. God can use your efforts to grow His kingdom!

One easy way to make sure you're doing your part to make the church warm and loving is to be a greeter. Smile and speak to all who come. Have you ever visited a congregation and left shaking your head because no one spoke to you? That should never be said of the Lord's church! *"Greet one another with a holy kiss. The churches of Christ greet you" (Romans 16:16).* *"And if you greet your brethren only, what do you do more than others? Do not even the tax collectors do the same?" (Matthew 5:47).*

"Greet" appears 59 times in the New Testament. It means "to welcome" and also means "to respect, to be happy about, to embrace." What an impact we could make if we greeted everyone who comes into the assemblies in that way, visitors and members alike! The way we behave toward people indicates what we really believe about God. **Via Findlay church of Christ, Sparta TN**

MOTIVATION INSPECTION

If you are a Christian, probe the deep recesses of your heart and determine what's motivating you to follow Jesus. What's driving you? Is it fear? Fear has undoubtedly turned many people from their sinful ways. The thought of "the wrath to come" (**I Thessalonians 1:10**) has a way of humbling the proudest of people (**cf. Romans 5:9; II Corinthians 5:10-11**). Nevertheless, while we should maintain a healthy reverence for God throughout our lives (**I Peter 1:17**), I don't believe that fear should remain our primary motivation. I contend there is something that is more powerful than fear.

After His resurrection, Jesus appeared to His disciples more than one time. On the third occasion, we find Jesus having breakfast with them (**John 21:12-14**). After they had stuffed themselves, Jesus took the opportunity to ask Peter a series of important questions. Interestingly enough, the questions were essentially all the same: "*Simon, son of Jonah, do you love Me?*" (**John 21:15-17**). Following each question, Peter responded in the affirmative: "*You know that I love you.*" Jesus followed his responses with a variation of commands, all of which expressed the same thing: "*Tend my sheep.*" Among other things, this passage highlights what should drive us as Christians. Besides facilitating reconciliation with Peter, Jesus was seeking to inspect Peter's inmost purpose in following Him. In Jesus' mind, only a complete love for Him would be sufficient to carry Peter and his fellow disciples through the careers that awaited them in the near future.

As it was with Peter, so it is with us. Love is the highest motivation, and it is the only one that holds the power and the lasting influence to carry us through to the end. Indeed, the sentiment expressed in **John 21:15-17** is basically an echo of the two great commandments. We are to love God with everything inside of us, and we are to love everyone around us (**Matthew 22:37-39**). Paul put it this way: "*For the love of Christ controls us, because we have concluded this: that one has died for all, therefore all have died; and He died for all, that those who live might no longer live for themselves but for Him who for their sake died and was raised*" (**II Corinthians 5:14-15**). Although a love for God is commanded, we find in these verses that Jesus has provided us a potent reason to love Him, a reason that will continue to stand the test of time.

Jacob Evans