



Rockwood Church of Christ

The Proclaimer

July 1, 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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Rockwoodchurchofchrist.com

REACH OUT AND TOUCH SOMEONE

“Then the master said to the servant, ‘Go out into the highways and hedges, and compel them to come in, that my house may be filled” (Luke 14:23).

You never know where a simple invitation may lead. It does not take but a moment and a little courage to invite someone to worship. Yet that simple invitation may result in that person attending worship, learning about the church, obeying the gospel, becoming a great servant of God for life and influencing others to do the same!

The thought of speaking to a group may frighten you. You may feel inadequate to conduct an in-depth Bible Study one on one. But, you can extend a warm “invitation” to a family member, friend or acquaintance. Instead of focusing on the things we cannot do, let us focus on the things we can do. YOU invite others to worship!

It is true that many of those we invite to worship will never accept our invitation. It is true that many of them will pass off the invitation with an “I’ll try.” If nothing else is accomplished they will know that we are a “friendly bunch.” And, they will not be able to say, “No one ever invited me to worship!”

Wait a minute! There are a lot of folks out there who would appreciate and accept your invitation! Oh, yes! Believe it! According to recent surveys, a lot of folks are looking for a church home. Your invitation may be just what they have been waiting for!

Want to see the church grow? Want to enhance our image and influence in the community? Want to be a part? Invite others to worship! Offer to pick them up! Sit with them when they come! Introduce them to others! Help them find their way around! Answer their questions! Reach out and touch someone! You just never know where a simple invitation may lead! This we can do!

Dwight Fuqua

CHRISTIANITY VS. PATRIOTISM

Racism. Patriotism. Football. Protests. Christianity. Maybe by now, you're all tired of the rhetoric. Some of it has been unkind, some unreasonable, and some just coarse (as heard from our President). But I hope that you will find the brief thoughts below to be none of those things, and actually helpful. Please consider:

I am a Christian first and a Patriot second. I long for the day when God's people can be as moved and vocal about Jesus as they can be about the country they love. Are we as upset and vocal when the institutions and doctrines of God are disrespected as we are when our nations institutions are disrespected? Are we as willing to speak in defense of the cross as we are in defense of the flag? Friends, love your country, but don't forget your citizenship is in heaven (**Philippians 3:20**).

Freedom of Speech must be Tempered with Respect. I am thankful for the "freedom of speech" protected by the 1st Amendment. But I must keep in mind that this great freedom must be tempered with respect. For instance, I am opposed to the practice of homosexuality, but I will not join myself to groups who share that view, when they seek to share that view in a disrespectful way, such as at a funeral. This is disrespectful. Make sure you don't negate your valid message by expressing it in a disrespectful way. Freedom of speech doesn't license us to disrespect others. How and where we exercise this freedom is important (**Romans 12:10; Philippians 2:3; Matthew 7:12**).

Acknowledge the Plight of the Oppressed. We must lose the "get over it already" attitude some possess. Oppression, injustice, inequality and discrimination still exist in our country, and to act as if they don't, because they don't happen to you, is ungodly. Godliness lifts the burden from the oppressed, rights the wrongs, and treats all men equally (**Isaiah 1:17; Micah 6:8; Psalm 82:3-4; Matthew 23:23**).

Love those with whom you Disagree. Allow people to disagree with you without expressing bitterness and malice. In fact, go a step further and open your mind to others perspectives. Not everything in life is a "heaven or hell" proposition. In matters of judgement, we have the right to hold and express differing opinions. When you hear those dissenting voices on matters of judgment, make sure you love the person expressing their dissent more than you love your opinion (**John 13:34-35; I Corinthians 9:22**).

Steve Higginbotham