



Rockwood Church of Christ

The Proclaimer

July 27, 2014

P.O. Box 416
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Elders:

Dana Carter
Kenneth Carter
Don Chandler

Deacons:

Kendall Bear
Larry Brackett
Roger Carter
Steve McCreary

Minister:

Kirby Hinds

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

Monday

Ladies Class 10 am

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AFFIRMATION

Humans need it. We want others to give it freely, not grudgingly. We want to come without prompting and we would love for it to happen on a regular basis. However, most of us are of such disposition we do not need it every day or, for that matter, every week...but we do need it. What is "it?" The answer is affirmation – the acknowledgment by someone outside ourselves, that we are needed, wanted and valued for our unique contribution to their life.

The apostle Paul was a master of affirmation. Just a quick glance at the New Testament books which are his letters to churches and individuals will confirm this. As you look over the following verses, note the phrases of affirmation.

"Greet Prisca and Aquila, my fellow workers in the Lord, who risked their necks for me..." (Romans 16:3-4).

"I rejoice at the coming of Stephanus and Fortunatus and Achaicus... For they refreshed my spirit as well as yours..." (I Corinthians 16:17-18).

"...Tychicus the beloved brother and faithful minister in the Lord will tell you everything" (Ephesians 6:21).

"I thank my God in all my remembrance of you, always in every prayer of mine for you all making my prayer with joy..." (Philippians 1:3-4).

"For I bear him (Epaphras) witness that he has worked hard for you and for those in Laodicea and in Hieropolis" (Colossians 4:13).

"To Timothy, my beloved child" (II Timothy 1:2).

"To Titus, my true child in a common faith..." (Titus 1:4).

He greeted, complimented and encouraged those to whom he wrote. He mentioned names of people whom he admired and appreciates and was not showy or dramatic in his affirmation.

You and I can follow Paul's example. We can do so in writing, just as he did with a few well-chosen words. It can also be done personally, with a touch, handshake or hug. All it takes is the courage to push those words past our lips. One such sentence could be, "I am glad you are my..." You fill in the blank with friend, wife, husband, son, daughter, teacher, etc.

One note of caution, however, - you had better mean every word, because they will probably know if you are not sincere.

Lance Cordle

PLAYING POLITICS

Pilate asked that great question, *“What shall I do with Jesus?”* (**Matthew 27:22**). We must ask ourselves this same question. We must do something with Him! We many accept Him, or reject Him, but we must do something. What I do now will determine what He will do for me after while. The question may be more easily answered after we see what Pilate did with Him. We know that Pilate delivered Him to others to be crucified, (**Matthew 27:26**). Pilate “played politics” with a righteous man. What a different story we would have had if Pilate had obeyed his own conscience and also had followed his wife’s intuition and advice. Pilate set the standard for a man shirking responsibility.

Pilate made several efforts to avoid sentencing Christ.

1st Pilate told the Jews, *“It is not under my jurisdiction – handle it yourself.”* (**John 18:31**). *“Then said Pilate unto them, Take ye him, and judge him according to your law...”*

2nd Pilate sent Him unto Herod. When Pilate learned Jesus was from Galilee, he again sought to avoid sentencing Him and sent Him to Herod. (**Luke 23:7**). *“And as soon as he knew he belonged unto Herod’s jurisdiction, he sent Him to Herod...”*

3rd Pilate announced Jesus was innocent. Pilate should have at that moment dismissed the hearing and dispersed the mob - but he didn’t. (**John 18:38**) *“he went out again unto the Jews, and saith unto them, I find in Him no fault at all.”*

4th Pilate offered to substitute a lighter punishment. Of course, there was nothing mild about Roman flagellation. (**Luke 23:16**). *“I will therefore chastise Him, and release Him.”*

5th Pilate used the custom of releasing a prisoner at the feast, giving the mob a choice between Jesus and Barabbas. (**Matthew 27:17**), *“Whom will ye that I release unto you? Barabbas, or Jesus which is called Christ?”*

6th Pilate insisted on His innocence. (**Mark 15:14**), *“Why, what evil hath He done?”*

7th Pilate proposed to “look the other way” (**John 19:6**), *“Pilate saith unto them, Take ye Him, and crucify Him, for I find no fault in Him.”*

8th Pilate continued to release Him – possibly by unloosing His hands. (**John 19:12**), *“And from thenceforth Pilate sought to release Him.”*

Pilate made several efforts to avoid sentencing Jesus but then he “played politics.” (**John 19:12**), *“but the Jews cried out, saying, ‘If thou let this man go, thou are not Caesar’s friend: whosoever maketh himself a king speaketh against Caesar.’”*

Pilate was not finished yet, he attempted to wash his hands of responsibility as he delivered Him to be crucified. (**Matthew 27:24**), *“When Pilate saw that he could prevail nothing, but that rather a tumult was made, he took water, and washed his hands before the multitude, saying, I am innocent of the blood of this just person, see ye to it.”*

Pilate tried to avoid sentencing Christ; he even symbolically washed his hands of the whole matter as he “played politics” and displayed great moral cowardice.

But we already knew what Pilate did with Christ. What is not know is what are you going to do? Will you accept personal responsibility (**Ezekiel 18:20**). And instead of washing your hands of the whole matter – obey the Gospel and put on Christ in baptism and wash away your sins. (**Galatians 3:27; Acts 2:38; Acts 22:16; Romans 6:1-4**).

From the Oneida Encourager, Oneida church of Christ, Oneida TN