



Rockwood Church of Christ

The Proclaimer

March 14, 2021

P.O. Box 416
129 S. Chamberlain Ave.
Rockwood, TN 37854
865-354-0855

Elders:

Kendall Bear
Dana Carter
Don Chandler

Deacons:

Larry Brackett
Aaron Evans
Larry Hill
Steve McCreary

Minister:

Dale Barger

Secretary:

Service Times:

Sunday

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

Wednesday

Bible Study 7 pm

Email:

rockwdcc@gmail.com

Website:

Rockwoodchurchofchrist.com

Why We Need Each Other

The sole business of the church is souls. The church is souls in love with God and one another. The church is souls weeping and rejoicing together, laughing and praying together, eating and singing together. The church is souls looking upward, in praise, inward in penitence, outward in practice, and forward in promise. The church is hearts knit together whose spirits share together. The heart of the church is the heart of life.

The word “*church*” in the Greek New Testament literally means “*assembly*” which indicated “*community and brotherhood.*” The church must live up to its name by its practice. The church does not exist to beautify the neighborhood, but to personify brotherhood. The church is not a physical building of brick or wood, but a spiritual house of men and women in fellowship with God and one another.

The huge redwood trees of California amaze mankind. They are the largest living things on earth and the tallest trees in the world. Some of them are 300 feet high and over 2,500 years old. One would think that a tree so large must have a tremendous root system that reaches down hundreds of feet into the earth. But not so! The redwoods have a very shallow root system. If one was to get down on his knees and examine the redwoods root system he would find that all the roots intertwine. They are locked to each other. When the storms come, the winds blow, and the lightning flashes, the redwoods still stand. They are not alone for all the trees support and protect each other. Each tree is important to all the other trees in the grove. This vivid illustration should teach us the necessity of meaningful involvement with each other.

The church is souls in fellowship. Without Christ, the church is nothing, and without fellowship, the church is useless. By our love, we must show the world what a difference Jesus makes!

Calvin Warpula
via Nettleton church of Christ
Jonesboro, AR

What We Need in the Church Today

More knocking on doors and less knocking on each other. The great commission demands that we busy ourselves in taking the gospel to others (**Mark 16:15**). The Bible says, “*speak not evil of one another*” (**James 4:11**). It is so much better to be busy doing good rather than evil.

More sound heads and fewer soreheads. Perhaps there has never been a time in the history of the church in which we have had a greater need for men sound in the faith and wise in judgment. Sometimes the voice of the wise goes unheeded and the voice of the foolish takes over (**1 Kings 12:6-8**).

More open hearts and fewer open mouths. All conduct proceeds from the heart. Prejudice closes the heart to a true consideration of the facts. If the heart was made right before the mouth was opened, most church problems locally and universally would cease to exist (**James 3:5-6; Proverbs 26:20**).

More seed-slinging and less mud-slinging. The task of sowing the seed of the kingdom is so great that it should leave no time for the slinging of mud at a brother. The fact that we have the whole world as our foe should draw us closer together (**Proverbs 18:24**). There should be no division in the Lord’s camp (**1 Corinthians 1:10**). One can never whitewash himself by slinging mud at another. He who tries gets his own hands dirty.

More sacrifice of self and less sacrifice of others. There are plenty of members of the church who are willing to sacrifice the other fellow—his talent, his time, his money, and even perhaps his reputation. Sacrifice should begin at home (**Luke 9:23**).

More concern over direction than speed. This is the jet and missile age. Speed is being enthroned and multitudes bow before it. But in the Lord’s work, the greater question is not: “How fast are we traveling?” but rather, “*Which way are we going?*” (**John 14:6; Matthew 7:13-14**). All speed is not progress. On the other hand, neither is standing still.

Leroy Brownlow
Piedmont Rd church of Christ
Marietta, GA