



Rockwood Church of Christ

The Proclaimer

March 6, 2022

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Elders:

Kendall Bear
Dana Carter
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Aaron Evans
Larry Hill
Steve McCreary

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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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Scandalized by Particularity

The doctrine of religious pluralism says that all roads, spiritually speaking, end up at the same destination. It's only that—so goes the belief—we're all just taking different paths to the same god. But if all religions are the same, Jesus Christ is a liar, and He died in vain. It is the scandal of particularity, that there is but one God, in covenant with one people, who sent his one and only begotten Son to redeem the world that is so challenging for the world to accept.

Jesus said, "*I am the way, I am the truth, I am the life. No one comes to the Father but by me*" (**John 14:6**). Simon Peter said, "*There is no other name given under heaven among men by which we must be saved*" (**Acts 4:12**). Paul said in another passage in Ephesians, "*You were without God and without hope in the world*" (**Eph. 2:12**). Jesus said, "*Whoever believes and is baptized will be saved, but whoever does not believe will be condemned*" (**Mark 16:16**).

The early Christians weren't persecuted by the Romans because they worshiped Jesus as a god alongside all the others. The Romans had a lot of gods already, after all, and they wouldn't have minded adding another statue to the pantheon. The reason they persecuted the Christians, however, is because Christians professed that Jesus is the only God and only Lord.

And so, be wary of politicians who boast their credentials as a "*person of faith*," as if it were rare for demons to believe in the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob! A person "*of faith*" has no hope apart from "*the faith once for all delivered to the saints*."

Jordan Arnold
Hooker church of Christ
Hooker, OK

Contemporary Worship

“Unbelievable!” That is the only word to describe it! A brother expressed concern in one of our publications about the *“have it your way”* mentality of those advocating contemporary worship. He clearly articulated the inherent danger of putting the focus on us instead of upon God, thus seeking to please ourselves instead of Him. In the next month’s issue, one respondent quickly cast aside this valid warning by asserting, *“After all, worship is a human enterprise that God calls for without specifying how it must be done.”* He further states, *“God calls us to worship and leaves the how to us (in large measure).”*

Not only are these comments unbelievable, but they are blatantly false! God tells us in the New Testament, the covenant under which we live, exactly how He wants us to worship Him. In **John 4**, the Master set forth the proper object, the proper manner, and the proper method of worship. *“God is Spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth” (John 4:24)*. We are to worship *“Him”* (God) — the proper object. We are to worship Him *“in spirit”* (sincerely, from the heart) — the proper manner. We are to worship Him *“in truth”* (according to His word, **John 17:17**) — the proper method.

Did you notice the word *“must”* in **John 4:24**? The Master said, *“God is Spirit, and those who worship Him **must** worship in spirit and truth”* (emphasis mine, DF). In God’s Word we are authorized to sing, to pray, to teach and study His Word, to give of our means, and to partake of the Lord’s Supper. The singing is to be congregational and without instrumental accompaniment. The prayers are to be simple and fervent. The messages proclaimed and studied are to be Scriptural. The contribution and the Lord’s Supper are only on the first day of each week. In the assemblies where both men and women are present, only males are to lead in worship. These points are easily documented in Scripture. Anyone who says, *“God calls us to worship and leaves the how to us,”* is either blatantly ignorant of the Scriptures or totally rejects them.

The cry today: *“We need contemporary worship.”* I believe in contemporary (current) worship! The question is, *“How contemporary (current) is God’s Word?”* If the Bible is His word, authoritative and relevant, then we need to follow it. Period! *“We like it”* needs to be squashed with *“Will the Lord be pleased?”* Better yet, we ought to like what He likes! The Master said, *“true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth” (John 4:23)*. Let’s be that contemporary!

Dwight Fuqua
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