



Rockwood Church of Christ

The Proclaimer

May 16, 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

Learning to Love the Brotherhood

Born in New Garden (Guilford County), NC on May 20, 1768, Dolley Payne was raised in a large and wealthy Quaker family on a Virginia plantation. After being married for only three years to her first husband, John Todd, a severe outbreak of yellow fever claimed the lives of her husband and youngest son. In 1794 Aaron Burr introduced the 26-year-old widow to James Madison (43). They were married four months later. Dolley would become the most popular First Ladies, overshadowing all others for decades (whitehousehistory.org). When the capital city was burned by the British in 1814, Dolley Madison famously rescued a portrait of President George Washington. During her reign over Washington society Mrs. Madison gained a reputation as the quintessential hostess. Henry Clay said of her, "*Everybody loves Mrs. Madison*," to which Dolley was said to reply, "*That's because Mrs. Madison loves everybody*" (*Cormac O'Brien, Secret Lives of the First Ladies*).

Is not that what Jesus wants us to do (**Mat. 22:36-40**)? He stated that the identifying mark of faithful Christians was their love for each other (**John 13:35**). Paul echoed that the "*more excellent way*" for believers to live is love (**1 Cor. 13:13**). John also called all Christians to prove their claim on eternal life by their love for fellow Christians (**1 John 3:14**). And Peter issued the simple command, "*Love the brotherhood*" (**1 Pet. 2:17**). Time and time again inspired writers reassert the need for the Lord's church to show true love (**Eph. 1:15, Heb. 13:1**). By so doing the unbelieving world may realize that they too might share in a love and God above will recognize and reward us for becoming more like Him (**1 John 4:8**).

David Bragg

via Church of Christ information and Studies

Are You a Spectator?

The American League and National League division games in Major League Baseball have been great, haven't they? Okay, so the Tigers didn't have the start we'd like, but there are more opportunities to win, aren't there?

When one goes to a baseball, football or basketball game, that person goes as a spectator. There may be those of us who would love to play. There may even be those who think they could play and win, but only the players can make that happen on the field or court. Otherwise, we are confined to the seats or bleachers.

The Christian life, however, is not like this. We are expected to get involved. We cannot sit as spectators while people are losing their lives and their souls. We must act!

The apostle John wrote that when we see someone in need, we just cannot sit as spectators. He wrote, "*But whoever has the world's goods, and sees his brother in need and closes his heart against him, how does the love of God abide in him?*" (**1 John 3:17** NASB).

Can you see the word, "*spectator*," here? It's there. John wrote, "*sees his brother in need.*" The word translated "*sees*" is from a word in the original that means "*spectator*." If one who calls himself a Christian watches from a distance and won't help, but instead closes his heart, then how does the love of God abide in him?

It's easy to be a spectator, but it takes more commitment to be a helper. A spectator merely occupies a seat and has a foam finger in his hand. The spectator yells, "*Yay! Way to go!*" and then leaves the stadium not caring what the players may be suffering.

We can't be spectators sitting "*on the sidelines.*" We must get involved. We must help. There's a song we sing that tells us, "*Who will follow Jesus / Standing for the right? / Holding up his banner / In the thickest fight / Listening for his orders / Ready to obey / Who will follow Jesus / Serving him today?*"

Have you been sitting on the sideline? Isn't it time to get into the action and start using your life following Jesus?

John Henson
Grand Blanc Church of Christ
Grand Blanc, MI