



# Rockwood Church of Christ

## The Proclaimer

May 24, 2020

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:**

Todd Houston

**Secretary:**

Susan Chandler

**Service Times:**

**Sunday**

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

**Wednesday**

Bible Study 7:00 pm

**Email:**

rockwdcc@gmail.com

**Website:**

Rockwoodchurchofchrist.com

## How To Make Sermons Last

A preacher posted recently that someone had commented to him, “sermons are ineffective because they are forgotten by the time people get to the restaurant after church.” This statement concerned me because I feel the person who suggested this idea to the preacher put preachers in a negative light (probably not intentionally). I, like you, have heard someone complain from time to time about the preaching, the message, or the presentation. As I have tried to grow spiritually, I’ve learned the hearer has as much of a responsibility to the sermon as the speaker. If the hearer has trouble remembering what the message was during the week, here are some suggestions:

**Pray.** A day or two prior to Sunday (or when the lesson will be presented), pray and plan so no interruptions will limit your ability to pay attention. Be mentally prepared to hear.

**Limit distractions.** Put electronic devices out of arms reach. Do not sit with someone you are tempted to talk to. Find a place to sit so you can hear and see the presentation.

**Listen Actively.** Take notes on the handout or in a notebook designated for Bible class lessons or sermon notes. Study those notes on your own or with a family member (home devotional) throughout the week. Read ahead and prepare if the Bible class or sermon is part of a series of topics (do your homework).

**Repeat.** Go back and listen to the sermon on the church’s website for reinforcement.

I have to remind myself in order to gain something, I must invest something (time, effort). Preachers prepare but we must participate (**2 Peter 1:5**).

*Allen Jones*

# Making Marriage Great

Herbert and Zelmyra Fisher hold the record for the longest marriage in American history: 86 years, 290 days. When asked to explain their secret, Zelmyra said, “There is no secret. It’s God who has kept us together.” She was not implying that marriage was always easy. It isn’t. Great marriages take hard work, but they are far from impossible. Consider the following keys to a great marriage.

1. **Be patient with each other.** We should be as patient with our spouses as we want God to be with us (cf. **2 Pet. 3:9**).
2. **Be nice to each other.** The old adage says, “You always hurt the ones you love.” That may be true, but it shouldn’t be. It is tragic that some people are kinder to strangers than they are to their spouse.
3. **Celebrate your spouse’s successes.** Marriage isn’t a competition. Praise your spouse both in and out of their presence.
4. **Drop the ego.** Lose the need to make sure your spouse knows how much you do for your home.
5. **Be courteous.** Sadly, some stop showing common courtesy after marriage. Husband, do you open doors for strangers, but not your wife? Wives, do you parade your husband’s flaws before others?
6. **Seek to please your spouse more than yourself.** Don’t insist on always getting your own way (**Phil. 2:3-4**).
7. **Lighten up.** Some folks are too easily irritated, and this touchiness leads to petty arguments. Must your spouse walk on eggshells around you because you’re known to explode?
8. **Put away the ledger.** Do you keep a mental record of your spouse’s mistakes so you can bring them up later when you think you need them? Be thankful God doesn’t do that (**Heb. 8:12**).
9. **Enjoy wholesome things.** You will help your marriage immensely if you refuse to find joy in the things that sent Jesus to the cross.
10. **Learn to live with little annoyances.** Your spouse probably has some little idiosyncrasies that get under your skin. Guess what: you have them, too. Refuse to let them create bitterness.
11. **Always assume the best.** Be eager to give the benefit of any doubt, especially when you’re hurt. Spin things positively.
12. **Develop confidence for the future.** Don’t just blindly wish for a successful family. Expect it. Work for it.
13. **Never give up.** Ever. Your marriage is worth it.

When the Fishers were asked to share some advice that would help other couples experience a long and happy marriage, Zelmyra said, “Respect, support, and communicate with each other. Be faithful, honest, and true. Love each other with all of your heart.” Love is the key. Work hard to show your spouse that you put him/her ahead of yourself.”

That’s love. That’s a **1 Corinthians 13** kind of love. And that’s where you can find those 13 principles.

**Eddie Parrish**

