



Rockwood Church of Christ

The Proclaimer

May 31, 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 pm

Email:

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Website:

Rockwoodchurchofchrist.com

This Really Happened!

On Sunday, March 25, 1979 a family placed membership at one of the churches of Christ in Arkansas. This isn't significant news at all. In fact, we probably visualize three or four people walking down the aisle at the singing of the invitation song, sitting down on the front row, putting their names on a card, then checking the little box in front of "To Place Membership." They may have done that, but the significant thing is that they did more than that. They handed the elders — no, not a letter of recommendation, but their own letter. It read:

"We are asking to commit the welfare of our souls to your care. Although the weakness of the flesh often betrays us, the prime objective of our lives is obtaining salvation for ourselves, our children, and our fellow man. We therefore ask with all sincerity that you help us in every way possible to be successful in this endeavor. Besides spiritual food, encouragement, and fellowship, we fully expect that the help you give might well take the form of numerous requests to serve, instruct, correct, and if necessary, even discipline. With this in mind, we ask that when and if either of us responds in a negative fashion to a request or fails to measure up in a given task that you not write us off but help us grow and as soon as possible try us again. We view membership in this congregation as an obligation to be subject to its eldership, to be helpful and encouraging to all its members, and to take an active part in its work. We, therefore, state our intentions to give freely of our time, our talents, and our money in order to fulfill that obligation."

This really happened! And it should still be happening throughout our brotherhood today!

Tim Woodward

Suffer The Little Children to Come Unto Me

“And they brought young children to Him, that He should touch them: and His disciples rebuked those that brought them. But when Jesus saw it, He was much displeased, and said unto them, Suffer the little children to come unto Me, and forbid them not: for of such is the kingdom of God. Verily I say unto you, Whosoever shall not receive the kingdom of God as a little child, he shall not enter therein” (Mark 10: 13-15; parallel accounts in Matthew 19:13-15; Luke 18:15-17).

In this passage, Jesus lifts up children as examples of the nature of those who would enter His kingdom must possess. Notice He said *“of such”* is the kingdom of God. He is referring to *“of this sort of character.”* Also, one could not enter unless they received the kingdom *“as”* a little child. This is not describing *“when”* but *“in that manner,”* i.e. the qualities of a child. Like children, those that enter the kingdom would be:

Teachable. It has been rightly said many times that Christianity is a taught religion. We see this from the beginning in the Great Commission given by Jesus in **Matthew 28:19-20**, *“Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you...”* See also **Psalm 86:11; 2 Timothy 2:2.**

Humble. As one is being taught, he must be like a child in humility to enter the kingdom (**church, cf. Matthew 16:18-19**). Jesus taught this on another occasion in **Matthew 18:3-4**, *“And said, Verily I say unto you, Except ye be converted, and become as little children, ye shall not enter into the kingdom of heaven. Whosoever therefore shall humble himself as this little child, the same is greatest in the kingdom of heaven.”* See also **John 3:3-5; Micah 6:8.**

Obedient. When a person is taught and has a humble spirit, they are required to exhibit a childlike obedience in order to enter into the kingdom. **Matthew 7:21**, *“Not every one that saith unto Me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of My Father which is in heaven.”* See also **1 Peter 1:22-23; Hebrews 5:9.**

Free From Sin. Children have no sin until the age of accountability. Until that time they are *“safe.”* After we become accountable, we have need of having our sins forgiven and not living a sinful lifestyle. **Galatians 5:19-21**, *“Now the works of the flesh are manifest, which are these; Adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lasciviousness, idolatry, witchcraft, hatred, variance, emulations, wrath, strife, seditions, heresies, envyings, murders, drunkenness, revellings, and such like: of the which I tell you before, as I have also told you in time past, that they which do such things shall not inherit the kingdom of God.”*

If one would be free from sin in order to enter the kingdom of God, they must humbly obey those things taught in the word of God: Believe, **John 8:24**; Repent, **Luke 13:3**; Confess Christ, **Matthew 10:32**; Be Baptized, **Mark 16:16**; Live Faithfully, **Revelation 2:10.**

Jerry D. Sturgill