



# Rockwood Church of Christ

## The Proclaimer

May 5, 2024

P.O. Box 416  
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Rockwood, TN 37854  
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**Elders:**

Kendall Bear  
Dana Carter  
Don Chandler

**Deacons:**

Larry Brackett  
Aaron Evans  
Larry Hill  
Steve McCreary

**Minister:**

Dale Barger

**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

## So Are You Really a Christian?

The word “*Christian*” means “*adherent of Christ.*” We make the initial step of adhering to Christ in baptism (**Gal. 3:27**). But a Christian is not only one who initially belongs to Christ, but continually adheres to Him. Thus, it could be said that a true, faithful Christian is one who is continually... Committed to Christ’s cause Honoring Christ’s Lordship Responsible toward Christ’s requirements Involved with Christ’s work Serving in Christ’s name Telling others of Christ’s gospel Imitating Christ’s example Accepting Christ’s will Never-ending in faithfulness to Christ and His church

Are you a Christian? Being a Christian is much more than just being initially converted to Him. A Christian not only wears Christ in his name, but he also wears Him in his life. When John saw a picture of heaven, he saw the saved serving Christ with “*His name...on their foreheads*” (**Rev. 22:4**). This is in obvious reference to allegiance. Christ’s name was on their heads in heaven because Christ was in their hearts and hands upon the earth.

So, are you really a Christian?

“*And if you belong to Christ, then you are Abraham’s offspring, heirs according to promise.*” (**Gal. 3:29**, NAS)

“*Now those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires.*” (**Gal. 5:24**, NAS)

“*And whatever you do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through Him.*” (**Col. 3:17**, NKJV)

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# Can One Be A Good Christian And Not Be Part Of Any Church?

Many people pose this question. Not a few are actually trying to make their way to heaven and not be a member of any church. They wish to just live an individual, autonomous “*Christian*” life. They may keep the Ten Commandments, abstain from any really evil practices, donate to some good charities, be good family members and good citizens; but are not part of any church. May they by this obtain the flavor of God and eternal life?

It is readily conceded that one may be a good Christian and not be a part of any denomination. In fact, the Lord never authorized, nor approved of anyone being a member of a denomination. The Lord never required that one be a member of a denomination. That is a far cry from admitting that one can be a good Christian and not be part of any church. The Lord’s church is not a denomination. The one who is a Christian will be a part of the Lord’s church (**Matthew 16:18**). If he is not a member of the Lord’s church, he is not a Christian in any sense. The Lord adds all the saved to His church (**Acts 2:47**). The saved are the only ones who are Christians.

Perhaps the confusion which prompts this question is caused by a misunderstanding of what the church is. Many view the church as a kind of a social club, an organization to hand out food from the pantry to anyone who asks and to pay rent and utility bills for those who get themselves into a bind. They see it as a group of fallible (even hypocritical) people whom one may voluntarily choose to associate with, or he may choose not to. They see that it makes demands of its members and places obligations on them of which they desire to be free.

They fail to see the church as the Bible pictures it: the blood-bought body of the saved (**Acts 20:28: Ephesians 5:23**), the object of Christ’s love (**Ephesians 5:25**), a part of God’s eternal purpose (**Ephesians 3:10-11**), the product of God’s planning and inseparably tied into God’s scheme of redemption (**Ephesians 1:22-23**). The church is the Lord’s doing, not a mere association of claimants who follow Christ based on human wisdom.

Apart from the church, one’s spiritual vitality will wither and die. He just will not thrive and live. Even with the faults which are invariably found in some church members, the church is still necessary for anyone who lives a Christian life.

Marvin Rickett

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