



Rockwood Church of Christ

The Proclaimer

November 11, 2018

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Kenneth Carter
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Deacons:

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Larry Brackett
Roger Carter
Steve McCreary

Minister:

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Service Times:

Sunday

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

Wednesday

Bible Study 7:30 pm

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A CARING CHURCH

The title phrase is one commonly heard when describing particular congregations. But what does it mean to be a caring church? Is this church a caring church? Let's find out.

A Caring Church is a Sharing Church. A caring church is thankful Christ has shared with them and thus is willing to share with others (**Hebrews 13:16; II Corinthians 9:13**). A caring church shares with one another, both blessings and burdens (**Romans 12:15; Galatians 6:2**). A caring church shares the gospel with the lost and shares with those who spread the gospel (**Philemon 6; Philippians 4:15**).

A Caring Church is a Declaring Church. A caring church is one that declares Jesus as Lord and Savior (**I John 1:1-3; Romans 1:1-6**). A caring church is one which declares the whole counsel of God (**Acts 20:27; I Thessalonians 2:4**). A caring church is one that will declare praise to God in proper heart-felt worship (**John 4:24; Hebrews 2:12**).

A Caring Church is a Preparing Church. A caring church is one that prepares for eternity (**I Corinthians 15:23-24; Hebrews 11:16**). A caring church is one that prepares its members to live pure, faithful, and active lives for Christ (**II Timothy 2:20-22; Ephesians 2:10**). Heaven is a prepared place for prepared people and the caring church is preparing its members for Heaven (**John 14:1-3; Revelation 21:1-3**).

A caring church cares for its members, cares for others, cares for what is right, and cares for God. As a result, a caring church will always be sharing, declaring, and preparing. Do you care enough to help keep this church a caring church?

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FACEBOOK ETIQUETTE FOR CHRISTIANS

I have been a Facebook user since 2006. I would consider myself a moderate user but I have been around long enough to be put off, disappointed, embarrassed and shocked by some things I've read and seen, Therefore, I am going to share a few “**Etiquette Tips**” for Christian Facebook users.

First, do not criticize the church or your brethren on Facebook. Remember the world is looking on. When King David learned of Saul's death, he instructed Israel to “*tell it not in Gath...lest they rejoice*” (**II Samuel 1:20**). Gath was a Philistine city, the home of Goliath. David did not want the sad news of Saul's death to be used as an opportunity for his enemies to rejoice. When you identify weaknesses and failures among your brethren, do not tell it on Facebook. Jesus has a better way of dealing with such things (**Matthew 18:15-17**).

Second, do not constantly whine, or to use Biblical terms, do not murmur and complain (Philippians 2:14). There are times when you want to share your burdens of life with others. Facebook provides the means of doing that so it can be a form to encourage, edify, and bear one another's burdens (**Galatians 6:1**). But don't be a constant complainer. If you are a Christian, regardless of what your problems are, remember your blessings infinitely exceed your trials.

Third, do not take “pot shots” at some unnamed person, who, when they read your post, will know you are talking about them. If you have something to say to a person, go to that person and don't take your problem public (**Matthew 5:23-24**).

Fourth, think before you post. Innuendoes and off-color comments should never be posted (**Ephesians 4:29**).

Fifth, do not post inappropriate pictures. Pictures showing you breaking the law, drinking alcohol, wearing immodest clothing, etc. damage your influence and do not glorify Christ. Better yet, do not engage in those activities in the first place.

Sixth, do some self-evaluation. Look at your profile. What do you have to say about yourself? If you proudly identify yourself as a Christian and the Bible as one of your favorite books, then please make sure the rest of what you say is consistent with your profession.

Seventh, do not use Facebook as an escape from reality. If you are unhappy about your marriage, get off Facebook and work on your marriage! I know too many stories where Facebook became the medium for adultery and broken homes.

Eighth, be kind (Ephesians 4:32). I have witnesses a person express some Biblical error or misunderstanding only to be met with harsh, judgmental words. The fact that one may be in error does not imply sinister motives. Some of the harsh words I have seen typed would never have been spoken in person. Paul instructs us to preach with all longsuffering (**II Timothy 4:2**). This is true of what we post as much as what we preach.

Ninth, do not gossip. The rules of the tongue apply to the keyboard as well. Give care that what you say is true as well as helpful. Lying and gossip are as wrong on Facebook as they are face to face.

Tenth, use Facebook for good. (I Corinthians 9:22). Speak often of your faith, encourage others, point people to Jesus, let people see there is an undeniable family resemblance between you and your Heavenly Father. If we would do these things, Facebook would be a better place and the world would too.

Adapted and edited from an article by Steve Higginbotham