



Rockwood Church of Christ

The Proclaimer

November 12, 2023

P.O. Box 416
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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

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Four Commands We Must Live By

“Therefore submit yourselves to every ordinance of man for the Lord’s sake, whether to the king as supreme, or to governors, as to those who are sent by him for the punishment of evildoers and for the praise of those who do good. For this is the will of God, that by doing good you may put to silence the ignorance of foolish men—as free, yet not using liberty as a cloak for vice, but as bondservants of God. Honor all people. Love the brotherhood. Fear God. Honor the king” (1 Peter 2:13-17).

Peter tells us that as Christians, we must be law-abiding people. Why? Because people (worldly) will point at us, if we aren’t law-abiding, and call out our inconsistencies. They would then cast this stain upon the church and our Lord. This can’t happen!

Peter gives us the formula to avoid this:

Honor all people. Be respectful of others. Be courteous and have a good reputation among them. This can give us opportunities we might never have.

Love the brotherhood. A group of unloving Christians makes us lose our influence. Loving one another makes us stronger for the work of God. It keeps us united as Satan does everything he can to divide us.

Fear God. Solomon told us this in **Eccl. 12:13**. It is just as important now as it was then. We won’t be keeping any of God’s word unless we are in proper awe of God. We must have a deep reverence for Him and be respectful in our lives and worship.

Honor the king. Paul tells us the same thing, basically in **Romans 13**. Although God may not approve of all the king (leader) of our people does, he is there for a reason. We are to obey the law and thereby honor our leaders. We are subject to our government as long as it doesn’t command us to go against God’s law.

If we do these things, God will be pleased, and we will have good influence on those around us. The church won’t be condemned for being full of law breakers. How you and I live, individually, helps or hurts the whole.

Chris Moore
Clarendon church of Christ
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Out of Options

I don't know about you, but I have a hard time being told what to do. I feel as though, being an adult and overall responsible and trustworthy, I should not have to be forced to comply to any command or request of anyone walking the face of this earth. If and when I comply or fulfill any request, it is because I have chosen to do so of my own free will. I believe that can be said of most people. We are not forced to love who we love. We make that choice. We are not forced to do our jobs. We make that choice. We are not forced to make a sacrifice. We willingly make that choice.

However, there will be a day where we will no longer have an option. God has ordained that a day will come when the world will be judged. Jesus said that we all will give an account for every idle word we may say (**Matthew 12:36**), and that God will render His final judgment to all mankind. Paul says in **Philippians 2:9-11**, *“Therefore (because Jesus humbled Himself and died for us), God also has highly exalted Him and given Him a name that is above every name, that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of those in heaven, and of those on earth, and of those under the earth, and that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord to the glory of God the Father.”*

Although while we still live, breathe, and walk the earth we have the option to make the choice to obey the Gospel; there will be a day when that option no longer exists. In fact, on that day the statement will be true. *“I'll give you your options. Ya got no options!”* So, why wait until the time to obey has lapsed? Why wait until you no longer have the option? Paul says in **2 Corinthians 6:1-2**, *“We then, as workers together with Him also plead with you not to receive the grace of God in vain. For He says, ‘In an acceptable time I have heard you, and in the day of salvation I have helped you.’ Behold, now is the accepted time; behold, now is the day of salvation.”*

Brethren today is the only day that we can freely and willingly submit ourselves to His rule and authority in obedience to the Gospel. Tomorrow, we may not have that option.

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