



Rockwood Church of Christ

The Proclaimer

November 1, 2015

CHRISTIAN EXAMPLE

My Lord said, *“Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven” (Matthew 5:16)*. The best I can tell, there’s no limitation to this.

In other words, shining forth a good example is not restricted to the church building, or to Sunday service, or when just around church folks. Truth be told, where it’s most important to let our lights shine is at home, on the job, at school, and even on social media sites. True Christianity radiates from within and is on display everywhere, and all the time.

Question, do people know that you’re a Christian? They shouldn’t have to ask you. They should be able to witness it for themselves.

William Barclay wrote: “Our Christianity should make a difference in the way we order a meal from a waitress or treat the shop assistant behind the counter. Christianity should make a difference in the conscientiousness of our work, and in the courtesy with which we serve the public and in the consideration with which we live within our own homes.”

Christianity is a full-time job. It’s not a past time practiced only on Sunday. It demands our best behavior every day.

George Bailey (not the “It’s a Wonderful Life” guy) said, “Nothing is more contagious than an example.” What kind of example are you setting? It’s contagious. What are folks picking up from you?

Neil Richey

P.O. Box 416
129 S. Chamberlain Ave.
Rockwood, TN 37854
865-354-0855

Elders:

Dana Carter
Kenneth Carter
Don Chandler

Deacons:

Kendall Bear
Larry Brackett
Roger Carter
Steve McCreary

Minister:

Kirby Hinds

Secretary:

Susan Chandler

Service Times:

Sunday

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

Wednesday

Bible Study 7:30 pm

Monday

Ladies class 10:00 a.m.

Email:

rockwdcc@gmail.com

Website:

Rockwoodchurchofchrist.com

IS IT WRONG TO GAMBLE?

Is it wrong to gamble? Is it really “all that bad” to place a bet on the outcome of a contest, to play a game of chance, to buy a raffle ticket or to play the lottery? Gambling has its promoters and justifiers, especially our own state government. There are also opponents who label it “immoral” and “destructive.”

What does the Bible say? While the word “gambling” does not appear in the Bible, there are numerous principles which, properly applied prohibit the practice. Consider these:

1. **Gambling** violates God’s design for man to earn his living by honest toil (**Ephesians 4:28; I Thessalonians 4:11-12**). Gambling is not “innocent fun,” but a violation of the fundamental principle of work.
2. **Gambling** is highly addictive and many become obsessed with it. The Bible teaches that we are not to be brought under the power of anything (**I Corinthians 6:12**). The “It won’t happen to me” argument has also been made by those addicted to alcohol, other drugs and vices. Gambling destroys lives!
3. **Gambling** is wrong because it causes people to lose their moral stamina. How often do those who gamble turn to other vices? Not surprising when they are part of the “gambling package.” Gambling, drinking, partying, indecent shows, cheating, stealing..., birds of a feather! The Bible says, “*Abstain from all appearance of evil*” (**I Thessalonians 5:22**).
4. **Gambling** violates the Golden Rule. The Master said, “*Therefore, whatever you want men to do to you, do also to them...*” (**Matthew 7:12**). In gambling, one tries to “beat his neighbor.” That’s the iron rule: “Yours is mine if I can take it from you!” Gamblers would not last very long following the Golden Rule. Think about it!

The fallacious arguments to justify gambling are too numerous and unworthy of time or space. One of the most common is that it is “okay” to gamble when the proceeds are given to a worthy cause – like education. The end does not justify the means! It is true that the Lottery is bringing large sums of money into the state coffers. What is not mentioned is the burden the lottery is placing on our welfare system, the children who are going hungry because the family paycheck was squandered, the lives that are being destroyed via addiction and the spiritual consequences of living for the pot of gold at the end of the rainbow. Recent studies indicate that those who win “the big one” end up the greatest losers. I guess “*one’s life does not consist in the abundance of the things he possesses.*” Read that somewhere (**see Luke 12:15**)! That goose may not be so golden after all!

Dwight Fuqua