



Rockwood Church of Christ

The Proclaimer

October 15, 2017

P.O. Box 416
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Elders:

Dana Carter
Kenneth Carter
Don Chandler

Deacons:

Kendall Bear
Larry Brackett
Roger Carter
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 7:30 pm

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THERE'S TROUBLE IN THE LAND

There's trouble in the land. No wide-awake person will deny that! These upheavals have caused many parents to express apprehension concerning the future of their children. That's understandable. When our children graduate from high school and leave home, many of them also leave the church. Suddenly they are exposed to an environment hostile to Christ and even to the basic principles of morality. If a young person is ill-equipped to handle this, he is in grave trouble.

Unfortunately at a time when families should be doing everything in their power to "beef up" their spiritual defenses and intensifying their fight against Satan, many are permitting the safeguard to be torn down. Neglect of Sunday morning Bible classes, Sunday evening services, absence from Wednesday Bible study, and failure to encourage children to become totally involved in church-centered activities are some of the more obvious evidences of this foolish neglect.

Parents need to get their priorities straight. Those of us who preach seldom have the courage to remind weeping parents of the problem. But when dads and moms begin crying over what has happened to their kids, they could be reminded of the days when they chose camping instead of church, weekend trips instead of weekend training, and Sunday night recreation instead of Sunday night inspiration.

It only takes one hole in the fence to let the sheep out. It's amazing how prolific some people are at inventing new excuses to rationalize their habitual neglect. I would much prefer a person to be honest enough to say, "I just don't want to" than to forever blame job, health, grandma or baby.

Parents, give your kids a break! Put first things first! Let nothing interfere with regular church attendance. Then after they've gone from home with that good training you can do what you want with your own life. By that time, I feel you will make this a lifelong policy.

Joe R. Barnett

NEEDS OF A NEWCOMER

In the early church, we see that Christians were concerned with supplying each other's needs (**Acts 2:44-45; 4:34-35**). Paul reminded the church at Rome of their obligation to care for "*the needs of the saints*" (**Romans 12:13**). Elsewhere, we are reminded of specific needs like monetary support (**II Corinthians 9:12**), the need for teachers (**Hebrews 5:12**), and encouragers (**Acts 11:22-24**). With these things in mind, I would like to think about some of the needs of newcomers to the church, from their perspective.

I need you to notice me. I want to feel like my visit matters to you. I don't want to feel invisible.

I need to see you smile. You are my first impression of the church, and something as simple as a smile goes a long way in making me feel welcome.

I need you to speak to speak to me. Make an effort before and after service to introduce yourself and to get to know me. I don't mind if you ask me where I'm from or other questions to get to know me.

I need you to help me. Offer to show me where the nursery is if you see I have small children. Help me find my child's classroom will be and share with me my adult class options.

I need you to tell me positive things. I want to hear good things about the church, your elders, your deacons, your ministers, and various ministries you have. I want to be at a place where people are loving, encouraging, and united.

I want you to invite me. I want to be asked to be part of your church activities. I need to feel like you need me here as part of the family. I want to have a personal invitation to come back again.

I need you to remember me. The second visit is more important than the first, because the truth is; I'm still on the fence about coming here and making this my church home. I'll really be impressed if you remember my name.

If we're doing what we should be, there will be the opportunity each time we meet to make a first impression. While there are various needs in the church, let us be mindful not to neglect the needs of the newcomer.

"And let our people also learn to maintain good works, to meet urgent needs, that they may not be unfruitful" (**Titus 3:14**).

Joe Williams