



Rockwood Church of Christ

The Proclaimer

October 30, 2016

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:

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

Email:

rockwdcc@gmail.com

Website:

Rockwoodchurchofchrist.com

ARE YOU RECLINING, WHINING, OR SHINING?

It seems to me that there are three kinds of church members. Let's briefly examine each and, as we do so, please honestly examine your part in the church and see which you are:

There are those who recline. They just sit back and watch everything going on around them. They are never more involved than just "warming the pew" from time to time. God wants us involved with the church because *"He who is slothful in his work is a brother to him who is a great destroyer"* (**Proverbs 18:9**).

There are those who whine. Sadly other church members may be active, but they are involved with other members' business. They seem to spend the majority of their time and resources complaining. God wants us to focus on harmony and make sure we *"do not grumble against one another, brethren, lest you be condemned"* (**James 5:9**).

There are those who shine. Gladly, there are church members who possess a great attitude and are working heartily for the Lord. They are busy doing the Lord's will and singing along the way. They are a shimmering example of faithfulness and fruitfulness. *"Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven"* (**Matthew 5:16**).

Paul had instructions concerning all of these in **Philippians 2:14-15**, *"Do all things (that's the opposite of reclining) without complaining or disputing (that's the opposite of whining) that you may become blameless and harmless, children of God without fault in the midst of a crooked and perverse generation, among whom you shine as lights in the world (that's being a shining example)."*

So, Christian, are you reclining, whining, or shining?

Edd Sterchi

WHY I AM A MEMBER OF THE CHURCH OF CHRIST BECAUSE CHRIST IS THE FOUNDER OF ONLY ONE CHURCH – HIS CHURCH

Opposing opinions exist abundantly in the religious world today. “Cafeteria style” religion is practiced by the masses; choosing the church of one’s choice is the popular doctrine to follow. The Bible is very clear concerning what man should do to be right in God’s sight.

Does the Bible support the multiple church concept? Many would claim that it would. Men take verses such as, “*The churches of Christ salute you*” (**Romans 16:16**), and pervert them to say that this word “churches” gives man the authority for multiple denominations and doctrines. The word “churches” is found a total of 37 times in the English, King James translation of the Bible. Does this prove that the Bible supports multiple churches other than the one Jesus Christ established? Of course not. Any student of the Bible will note that, while the Bible does use the word “churches,” the doctrine that was taught was the same. **In the Bible, the word “churches” is NOT used in a denominational sense, but in a congregational sense.** The same gospel was preached to all who claimed to be members of the church in the New Testament. Belief, repentance, confession, and baptism for the remission of sins was required of all who heard and understood the gospel of Christ. The apostle Paul wrote in **Philippians 3:16**, “*let us walk by the same rule, let us mind the same thing.*” The way which the Christian travels is a strait and narrow one (**Matthew 7:13-14**). The word “strait” means strict/constricted, and the word “narrow” means restricted, not liberal in views. The Christian’s path is restricted and limited according to God’s Will.

There is one body (**Ephesians 4:4; Romans 12:4-5; I Corinthians 12:20**). Jesus Christ is the head of the body (**Ephesians 1:22-23; 5:23**). The body is the church (**Colossians 1:18**). So, Jesus is the head of only one church.

Our plea today should be one of unity in the authority. It is not our own will by which we should be governed, but by the Will of Almighty God! The apostle Paul wrote, “*that ye all speak the same thing, and that there be no divisions among you*” (**I Corinthians 1:10**). Jesus said, “*That they all may be one; as thou, Father, art in me, and I in thee, that they also may be one in us.*”

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