



Rockwood Church of Christ

The Proclaimer

October 8, 2017

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

BE A BETTER PERSON

Don't we all wish that everyone would be a better person? Do we not hope that some bad people would turn their lives around and start doing good? Do we wish our neighbor would treat us better than before? Do we hope that the people we meet each day would show us respect and treat us fairly? If we expect others to be nicer and fairer, should we not make the effort as well? The Golden Rule is that we should treat others the way we would want them to treat us.

Be a better person now. Do not wait until next year and make a resolution about it. Do not put it off until next week or even tomorrow. Start right now. Look at the person closest to you and show them love. Pick up the phone and call someone who would appreciate a thoughtful consideration. Help someone who needs it, and even if they do not need help, help them anyway. Perhaps they will return the favor and help someone else. If we would just try, we could turn our society around and make it a pleasant adventure each day to interact with others. Smile. Wish someone a nice day. Be courteous. Encourage others to be good. Tell people about God and His promises. Read **I John 3:17** and meditate upon it.

"My little children, let us not love in word or in tongue, but in deed and in truth" (I John 3:18). Don't just talk the talk, but walk the walk. Show your love to others.

"If someone says, 'I love God,' and hates his brother, he is a liar; for he who does not love his brother whom he has seen, how can he love God whom he has not seen?" (I John 4:20).

One way to turn your life around is to change focus. When you focus upon God you become a better person. When you focus upon helping others, you become a better person. When you focus upon helping others, you become a better person. Our goal is to get people focused upon God and become people that are better. Our community would be much better if more people were better.

Carey Scott

HOW DO I KEEP FROM DOING A SIN THAT I WANT TO DO?

In a Bible class that was discussing the topic of homosexuality, a 13-year-old girl asked, “What about someone who really doesn’t want to have those feelings but can’t seem to stop them?” That is such a great question, for there are many who are struggling with homosexual desires but they don’t want to be. How can they stop? What can they do?

First, the first step in stopping sinful desires is to have a desire to stop. The Bible calls that “repentance.” To repent, as defined in the Bible, is to change one’s mind which then leads to a change of conduct. One must truly want to stop sinning, if he is going to overcome the desires and thoughts. Genuine change of life will not follow where genuine change of heart and mind does not first lead.

Second, one must disassociate with friends and acquaintances who do not share the same godly drive. If one truly wants to stop sinful desires but he continues to hang around those who are given to (or approval of) those sinful desires, then those associations will weaken the resolve and eventually quell the determination. Our friends have a tremendous influence on us (**I Corinthians 15:33**), and some of them will keep us from making meaningful changes in our lives.

Third, deliberately associate with those who do share the same godly drive. As we disassociate with ungodly influences, we must build relationships with faithful Christians, who will help to “sharpen” us as Christians and help us deepen our resolve to live holy lives for God (**Proverbs 27:17**).

Fourth, abstain from tempting situations and people. We all know that we are especially weak and susceptible when we are in certain situations, around certain stimuli. God’s solution is clear-cut, “*Abstain from fleshly lusts which war against the soul*” (**I Peter 2:11**). Get away. Stay away.

Fifth pray about it. The power of prayer is beyond our ability to comprehend. “*You do not have because you do not ask*” (**James 4:2**). In detailing the Christian armor, precisely suited to fight the devil and his temptations, the final piece of armor is “*praying always*” (**Ephesians 6:18**). Ask. Seek. Knock. All the time!

Sixth, write the word of God on your heart. We all need to be able to say, “*Your word I have hidden in my heart, that I might not sin against You!*” (**Psalms 119:11**). When “*the law of his God is in the heart, his steps do not slip*” (**Psalms 37:31**). God’s word has amazing power to work in our lives!

Seventh, remember that being tempted is not a sin. Jesus was tempted but never sinned. Fleshly lusts are hard to overcome, but with God’s help we can resist giving in to those sinful urges. Each victory over temptation will help you to win another victory down the road. Trust in God. Lean on Him!

David Sproule