



Rockwood Church of Christ

The Proclaimer

October 9, 2022

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

Secretary:

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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Three Questions to Keep Your Worship Focused

Worshiping God is something that takes real effort to do properly and acceptably. (Note the word “do.”) While the word “*worship*” can be used as a noun, God uses the word as a verb. Furthermore, it is not used as a passive verb (of something that happens “to” me or “around” me). Worship is an active verb. It is something that takes real effort to do properly and acceptably.

Worship is a holy activity, in which holy beings “*offer up spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ*” (**1 Pet. 2:5**). God is the One who is to be praised (**Heb. 13:15**), the One to be honored (**1 Tim. 1:17**), the One whose eyes are watching (**1 Pet. 3:12**) and seeking true worshipers (**John 4:23**).

How can you and I make sure we are truly worshiping properly and acceptably? We cannot be mere spectators. We cannot just sit inactively. Are you a teenager? How can you stay focused and engaged in worship? Are you a young adult? How can you stay focused and engaged in worship? Are you a new convert? Are you an “*old-time*” member? How can you stay focused and engaged in worship? Each of us have our own challenges. As a possible help, write these questions down to keep with you and to review throughout a worship service. These questions are not designed to insult or cause resentment; they are for personal reflection and personal incentive to stay focused.

“*What if Jesus was sitting right next to me?*” Because He is (**Heb. 2:12; Matt. 26:29**). It’s very difficult to refrain from singing, when I envision Jesus sitting right next to me. It’s terribly embarrassing to fall asleep during the sermon after staying up playing games all Saturday night, when I envision Jesus sitting right next to me.

David Sproule
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Not a Good Idea?

I was watching a television program in which a number of preachers were asked questions from viewers. One viewer asked a very important question. The question dealt with why there are different denominations. The viewer asked, “*Wouldn't it be better to have just one church?*” The moderator of the program stated that would not be a good idea! Only a couple of preachers responded. They indicated that varying opinions of interpretation of scriptures was the reason for all the denominations. Since, there are varying opinions, according to them, denominations are justified.

Apparently, some of the men on the program may not have been familiar with some statements in scriptures that would have answered the question. Jesus prayed for unity and that “*all may be one*” (**John 17:21**). Paul pleaded with the Christians at Corinth “*That there be no divisions among you but that you be perfectly joined together in the same mind, and in the same judgment.*” (**1 Cor. 1:10**). The idea of unity is according to the Bible, a good idea.

The Bible teaches also that one church is a good idea. Paul wrote that Christ is the head of the church which is His body (**Eph. 1:22**). He says in **1 Cor. 12:20** that there is “*yet one body.*” Also, Paul mentions in **Eph. 4:4**, “*There is one body.*”

There is one church whose members have their names written in heaven (**Heb. 12:23**). Regarding this one church, Paul emphasized “*We being many are one body in Christ*” (**Rom. 12:5**). Further, Paul indicated there is one way into that one body. He indicated, “*For by one Spirit we are all baptized into one body*” (**1 Cor. 12:13**). This happened when the church was established in *Acts 2:47*. Luke writes there, “*And the Lord added to the church daily those who were being saved.*”

There was in the New Testament time only one church. They were consistent in message (**1 Cor. 4:17; 7:17**). There was just one system of faith that had to be obeyed (**Jude 3; Eph. 4:5**). There is just one gospel (**Rom. 1:16**).

May we understand the simple plan for unity as outlined in the New Testament. There is one church. That is God's plan, and is therefore a good idea.

Bill Brandstatter
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