



Rockwood Church of Christ

The Proclaimer

September 10, 2023

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

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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The Privilege of Serving in the Kingdom

Occasionally, I see bulletins with an order of service for the Sunday worship period. They will include the phrase, *“Those privileged to serve”* and follow with a list of the men who will be leading the services. I like that phrase, *“Those privileged to serve.”* The word *“privilege”* refers to *“a right...granted as a peculiar benefit, advantage, or favor.”* When I see that phrase, *“Those privileged to serve,”* it tells me that those leading in the services should consider it an honor to serve in the kingdom of God, regardless of the job to be done.

It seems to me that a lot of people have the reverse idea. They think they are doing God a favor by being at Bible study, worship services or by participating in the work of the church. For them, service is something done to benefit God, not any great honor for them. In that way, it reminds me of the two men in **Luke 18:9-14**. The Pharisee extolled his personal virtues and self-righteousness as if God were privileged to have him on His side. We think of that man as being arrogant and out of step with God. Are we any better when we *“volunteer”* to do service for God thinking that we are benefitting Him to some great degree?

Our attitude ought to be, *“What a privilege it is to serve in the kingdom!”* When we believe and think that way, we will do all we can to serve God. But we will do it from the perspective of humility and not arrogance. We will serve because there is work to be done and feel that we ought to do something in the service of our King.

Paul’s words say it best: *“And I thank Christ Jesus our Lord, who hath enabled me, for that He counted me faithful, putting me into the ministry...”* (**1 Tim. 1:12**).

You are *“privileged to serve.”* God has a place for you in His kingdom and He wants you to be busily engaged in the work that needs to be done. The question is not, *“What are you willing to do?”* The question is, *“What will you do?”* the answer should be, *“Whatever God wants me to do. It is a privilege to serve in the kingdom.”*

Gary Knuckles
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What Can You Do for the Church?

People often wonder what the church can do for them. It seems that everyone wants to be part of a large congregation that has immaculate facilities, lots of activities for the young and old, children of all ages, and a large contribution. When someone is looking for a congregation to attend, these may be some of the criteria used to find the “*right church*.” Most do not look for a congregation where they are needed to serve. Rather, folks frequently look for a congregation where they can be served. This self-serving attitude seems to be at odds with the spirit of Christianity and the example of Christ, Himself.

Consider these words describing the ministry of Christ: “*But it shall not be so among you: but whosoever will be great among you, let him be your minister; And whosoever will be chief among you, let him be your servant: Even as the Son of man came not to be ministered unto, but to minister, and to give his life a ransom for many*” (**Matthew 20:26-28**). This passage shows that Jesus, the founder of Christianity, did not come to be served. He came to serve.

Christianity is built upon this principle of service and sacrifice. Paul wrote, “*Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus: Who, being in the form of God, thought it not robbery to be equal with God: But made himself of no reputation, and took upon him the form of a servant, and was made in the likeness of men: And being found in fashion as a man, he humbled himself, and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross*” (**Philippians 2:5-8**). Notice that Jesus took upon himself the “*form of a servant*.” As a servant, Jesus gave Himself for the sins of the world (**1 John 2:2**). There could be no greater example of sacrifice than the one made by Christ. Yet, those seeking to be followers of Christ today, often do not seem to have this same selfless, sacrificial spirit. The question at the forefront seems to be, “*What can the church do for me?*” rather than asking, “*What can I do for the church?*”

I cannot imagine Jesus, Paul, or Peter saying, “*I am placing membership with congregation B because they have nicer facilities and greater financial resources than congregation A.*” I cannot envision Christ or His apostles saying, “*I am hoping to find a church that meets my needs.*” I do not believe the Lord or any of His apostles would say, “*I am choosing to attend the services of this congregation because they have more social gatherings.*” I am persuaded that Jesus, Paul, and Peter were too busy serving to think about being served. I think they were too busy spreading the gospel and trying to save others to think about themselves. They were servants...we should be as well.

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