



Rockwood Church of Christ

The Proclaimer

Sept 25, 2022

P.O. Box 416
129 S. Chamberlain Ave.
Rockwood, TN 37854
865-354-0855

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

Email:

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Website:

Rockwoodchurchofchrist.com

What the Church Offers

Too many folks look upon church attendance as being secondary to anything else on their schedule. They are not opposed to religion. They may even look upon it as a vital part of life. But they have no conscience against neglecting it. Perhaps the attitude is: *"I'll go to church if nothing comes up, or if I am not too tired."* But to stay away because we have so many other engagements or because we have so little strength left is like staying away from the dinner table because we are too weak from hunger to go to the table.

The Bible tells us that this was not uncommon in the first century. The writer of Hebrews notes *"Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as is the manner of some"* (**Heb. 10:25**).

What then does the church have to offer that a person cannot get anywhere else? One man said, *"I do not go to church anymore because I can get what the church has to offer in better form elsewhere."*

When the church gets into the business of offering the world what the world already has, it is in the wrong business, and is not the church of the New Testament.

The mission of God's church is to save souls. God's power for saving souls is in the gospel of Christ. It is the mission of the church to preach the gospel.

The church offers a family atmosphere to believers not found elsewhere. The early church was said to be *"together and had all things common."* (**Acts 2:42**).

Each member of the church is important. The church offers assistance to the believer in need (**1 John 3:17**).

The church is where the saved are (**Acts 2:47**). Their names are enrolled in heaven (**Heb. 12:23**). Where else can men have fellowship, communion with God and associations that they have in the church? In what other institution can we find the same assurance? Where else is offered the hope of everlasting life?

Bill Brandstatter
Marion church of Christ
Marion, IL

Me, or We?

The story is told of an encounter between a high school principal and a young ninth grader. The principal noticed the young man in the hallway with a very defeated and frustrated look on his face. He asked the young man, “*Is everything okay?*” The boy replied sternly, “*No. I don’t understand all the stuff the math teacher is trying to teach us. I can’t understand all the letters, formulas, and logarithms. It’s impossible.*”

The principal, with an encouraging tone, said, “*I’m sure we can work hard and do it, can’t we?*” The boy quickly said, with a condescending tone, “*Well, I guess ‘we’ can say that, because the ‘you’ half of ‘we’ doesn’t have to do the homework and take the tests with the ‘me’ half of ‘we.’*”

As members of the body of Christ, we should never feel alone. We shouldn’t feel like we are experiencing the challenges and struggles of living in this world without the sympathy, support, and love of our fellow brothers and sisters in Christ. The local church is a “*we*” and not a “*me*” organization. It is a family and not just an assembly (**1 Tim. 3:15, 5:1-2**). It is not simply a gathering of people who worship together at prescribed times, but a brotherhood (**1 Pet. 2:17**), and an intimate communion (**2 Cor. 6:14**).

The local body is a place of encouragement (**Heb. 10:24-25**). It is a place where the weak can find strength (**1 Thess. 5:14**). It is a place where the fainthearted can find courage (**1 Thess. 5:14**). It is a place where burdens are carried together (Gal. 6:2). It is a place where suffering is relieved (**1 Cor. 12:26**). It is a place where common struggles are experienced and understood (**1 Pet. 5:9**). It is a place where a person can receive needed admonishment and exhortation (**Rom. 15:14**). It is a place where genuine and sincere love can be enjoyed (**1 Pet. 1:22**).

Paul, in a very familiar passage, tells the brethren in Corinth that they are individual members of the same body. He illustrates this by a comparison to the human body (**1 Cor. 12**). In other words, they have all different kinds of parts (foot, ear, eyes, etc.) but just one body. As we read through the New Testament, we can see that God designed and envisioned the local church as a place where believers would enjoy tight-knit intimacy and share their lives together, not just a pew on Sundays and Wednesdays.

“And if one member suffers, all the members suffer with it; or if one member is honored, all the members rejoice with it” (1 Cor. 12:26).

Joe Williams
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