



Rockwood Church of Christ

The Proclaimer

June 23, 2024

P.O. Box 416
129 S. Chamberlain Ave.
Rockwood, TN 37854
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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

Email:

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Website:

Rockwoodchurchofchrist.com

Christianity and the Church of Christ BEFORE Alexander Campbell

Many people identify churches of Christ as owing their roots to Alexander Campbell in 1813. This is a common tendency among people thinking in denominational terms. Thus, in some circles, we have held the dubious distinction of being referred to as "Campbellites." The following is an interesting quotation from documentary research of Dr. Robinson, principal of Overdale College, Birmingham, England. (As you read it, remember that Alexander Campbell was born September 12, 1788.) It reads:

"In the Furness District of Lancashire - in N. W. England-there existed in 1669, during the reign of Charles II, a group of eight churches of Christ. Most of them are not now in existence. An old minute book has been found of the year 1669 and it shows that they called themselves by the name of church of Christ, practiced baptism by immersion, celebrated the Lord's Supper each Lord's Day, and had elders and deacons. There was also a church of Christ in Dungannon, Ireland in 1804 and in Allington, Dengighshire. In 1735, John Davis, a young preacher in the Fife District of Scotland, was preaching New Testament Christianity twenty-five years before Thomas Campbell (Alexander Campbell's father) was born."

Churches of Christ have always traced their origin back to the 1st Century, approximately 33 A.D. Men like Alexander Campbell, Barton W. Stone, and others were instrumental in the Restoration Movement, but the principle of New Testament Christianity is biblically and historically rooted within the soil of the Old Testament prophecy and Apostolic authority. The real truth of the matter is - when the seed of the kingdom (the word of God) is preached, and men and women believe and obey it...there is the church of Christ.

Carroll Sites

Church Of Christ Information And Studies

It is NOT ‘Just a Church’

Jesus promised to do something never before done on earth: He would build His Church upon the great truth that He is the Christ, the Son of the Living God! “*And I also say to you that you are Peter, and on this rock, I will build My church, and the gates of Hades shall not prevail against it*” (**Matt. 16:18**). Whatever your understanding of the Church may be, it is easy to see from what the Savior said that it must be important to Him. How important is His Church to you?

“*And they continued steadfastly in the apostles’ doctrine and fellowship, in the breaking of bread, and in prayers*” (**Acts 2:42**). When the Church began on the Day of Pentecost, the first converts to Christ got off on the right foot by doing spiritual things with one another. They realized not only the value of the gospel they had obeyed, but also their need for the fellowship of others.

“*So continuing daily with one accord in the temple, and breaking bread from house to house, they ate their food with gladness and simplicity of heart, praising God and having favor with all the people. And the Lord added to the church daily those who were being saved*” (**Acts 2:47**). When you are obedient to the gospel, the Lord adds you to the Church. Is that where you truly are today?

What a great privilege it is to be a member of the Church (**Eph. 2:19-22**)! In the Church we find those with whom we have the most important things in common; fellow citizens of the everlasting Kingdom of Jesus Christ! In the Church we are granted opportunities to grow in grace and to prove our love for God by sewing our brethren (**1 John 4:20,21**)!

“*And He put all things under His feet, and gave Him to be head over all things to the church, which is His body, the fullness of Him who fills all in all*” (**Eph. 1:22**). The Church is the Body of Christ, and He is the Head! We all understand how important our own bodies are to our existence, yet we often fail to consider how important the Body of Christ is to Him who is over all! Every Christian is a member of the Body of Christ, and therefore needs to function together with the rest of the Body. We would consider a finger severed from a hand as grotesque, but many think that a member of Christ with no connection to his brethren is normal! In reality, the members of Christ are His instruments for carrying out His perfect will here on earth. We are His mouthpiece, His hands, feet, fingers, and limbs for reaching the lost even as we encourage one another to grow up into the Head (**Eph. 4:16**)! Getting close to God and being spiritual are connected to our fellowship with other believers in Christ! We are taught to consider our fellow-members because God can help THEM through US, while God helps US through THEM (**Heb. 10:19-27**)!

The Lord made us so that we need one another, especially in the Body of Christ (**1 Cor. 12:18**). If you willfully excuse yourself from fellowship with your brethren, you are not only depriving yourself of the best source of encouragement you could ever have, you also rob the saints of a true blessing—YOU.

Sam Woody
via Jackson church of Christ
Jackson, MO