

Let the Church Go Rolling On

Key of G

Even before The Carter Family recorded their influential version of the song they called "Let the Church Roll On" for Victor records on May 25, 1931, the song had been recorded by numerous Black gospel groups including Norfolk Jubilee Quartet (10/1926), Mt. Zion Baptist Quartet of Mobile (3/09/27), The Thankful Quartet (03/17/27), Primitive Baptist Choir of North Carolina (03/26/30), and The Cornfed Four (11/06/30). The Carter Family apparently learned many of the gospel songs they recorded from a religious sect known as Holy Rollers, and that may be where they learned this song. The Carters changed some of the lyrics and turned it into a humorous novelty song that was later recorded by Flatt & Scruggs. Perhaps sensing the song's Black roots, on the Flatt & Scruggs version, Earl laid down his banjo and played it on the guitar in a fingerpicking blues style. This version was collected in the 1920s by Dorothy G. Bolton and published in 1929 in the *Old Songs Hymnal*.



If a broth-er in the Church, my Lord, If he don't do right, my Lord,



Just turn him out, my Lord, And let the Church go a-roll-ing on.

If a sister in the Church, my Lord,
If she don't do right, my Lord,
Just turn her out, my Lord,
And let the Church go a-rolling on.

If a leader in the church, my Lord,
And he don't do right my Lord,
Just turn him out, my Lord,
And let the Church go a-rolling on.

If a liar in the church, my Lord,
And he don't do right my Lord,
Just turn him out, my Lord,
And let the Church go a-rolling on.

If a gambler in the church, my Lord,
And he don't do right my Lord,
Just turn him out, my Lord,
And let the Church go a-rolling on.

