

view

April 10, 2005

This Week's Agenda

April 10, 2005

The Lord's Day

8:30AM & 10:15AM

Sermon: David Posey

5pm Sermon: David Posey

5:30pm: Classes for all ages from 18 months and up

Adult Classes

- Auditorium: Sunday - Randy Clark
- Room 6: Bible Essentials – Dennis Wade
- Room 11-12: Young Adults, Marriage– David Posey

Wednesday

10 AM Wednesday: OT History class resumes on Wednesday

7:30 PM - Classes for all ages 18 months and up.

Adult Classes

- Auditorium: Dennis Reagan, Current Issues
- Room 6: Bible Essentials – Dennis Wade
- Room 11-12: Young Adults, Marriage – David Posey



Bible Reading This Week

Sunday – Joshua 13-15; Psalm 56

Monday – Joshua 16-18; Psalm 57

Tuesday – Joshua 19-21; Psalm 58

Wednesday– Joshua 22-24; Psalm 59

Thursday – Reflection

Friday – Matthew 1-4; Psalm 60

Saturday – Matthew 5-7; Psalm 61

News and Prayers. . .

Tim Dickey

Nearly all of you know by now that Tim suffered very serious injuries in a boating accident last Saturday evening. The series of fortunate events that followed, that may well have been providential, probably saved Tim's life. We thank God and glorify Him in all events, but we are most thankful that Tim is doing well. However, he is still in ICU and facing additional surgeries. Please keep him in your prayers on a daily basis.

Other Prayer Concerns

Continue to pray for Carly Cain. Also, Kathy Wilson (Parkinson's disease) and Hank; Jamie Cole, Kristen Sanderson's sister; cancer victims: Dave Fulton's mother, Monica (Monroe, WA); Tom Royston; Ken McClelland; Margaret Everett; Cheryl Wilson; Laurie Ann Reagan; Chris Hamilton (friend of Justin Ivie); Phil Roberts; Oliver Sasse.

Others to keep in your prayers: Karen Gorden; Sharon Jones; Becky Woolpert. Continue prayers for all the new children born recently.

Christians Serving in Iraq

Jeremy Allen, Philip Cain, Steve Reis, Titus Cain, Philip Cain. Keep these good men in your prayers each day.

Expectant Mothers

Sally Deschler, Kristen Sanderson, Melissa Fields, Michelle Caisse, Janelle Thorp. Keep these ladies in your prayers.

Out of Town

Tom and Boots Royston are in Africa for another week.

Other Classes

Our class on OT History has resumed on Wednesdays here at the building at 10AM. Please see David Posey if you have any questions or need lesson sheets.

Also, there is a class for young mothers that meets every other Thursday. The class is taught by Christie Posey and others. Paula Ladd will be teaching the next class on Thursday April 21st. Please see Christie for information, including location.

dp

Fatherhood

There is no greater challenge than that of fatherhood. Period. Mothers may protest, but think I can make my case.

Despite radical feminism's attempt to persuade otherwise, motherhood is universally regarded as a noble enterprise. But fathers still labor under a cloud. There is still talk in some quarters of whether a father is even necessary, or desirable. More commonly, fathers suffer from an identity crisis. Many young fathers I've talked to seem unsure of whether they are really the "head of the house" and have only vague



notions of what their primary responsibilities are.

Sometimes, wives do not make the job any easier. They may want their husbands to be "king of the castle" when it suits them, yet they may want to reign as Queen at other times. For example, they may leave most of the heavy discipline up to dad, so that he is always the "bad guy." Yet, if she feels the discipline is inappropriate, she may attempt to veto his decision.

Given these challenges, fathers, too often, just

take a hike down the path of least resistance. And their children suffer immeasurable harm. We cannot forsake this solemn responsibility and expect to please God.

So, how do we do it? There is no way to fully explore even the fundamentals of proper fathering in one article. Even a special issue of Focus Magazine devoted to the subject could not do it justice. So, in the small space I have here, I will simply offer some broad brush principles that I hope will help young fathers meet the challenges they face.

First let me emphasize that we may misunderstand our goal. We don't really need better fathers any more than we need "better" wives or "better" employers or "better" employees. The goal of fatherhood is not to be a "good father" or a "great dad." It is not even to be the "spiritual leader" or "head" of the household. The goal is to be a Christian, with every characteristic the word implies.

Is that too abstract? It shouldn't be. Being a Christian is a practical matter. In fact, we might say Christianity is a practice. And it takes a lot of practice, as well. I am the best father I can be when I am the best Christian I can be.

A few examples should suffice to make the point. Paul says to "be angry, and do not sin; do not let the sun go down on your anger" (Eph. 4:26). This was not said specifically to fathers, but what father is blind to the child-rearing implications of this statement? There are few frustrations in life that can trump those that are brought on by your children. There are a host of reasons why, on any given day, your child may drive you to distraction. You will grind your teeth at his impetuosity and your head will ache when she talks back at you.

What will you do? If you're a Christian, you will "be angry." You will not allow your child to think that what he or she does makes little difference. You will reflect God's anger at his misbehavior and take appropriate action. Then, when the action is taken, you will let the anger go. You will never let the sun set on your frustration. You have handled the prob-

lem, corrected the defect and moved on. Just like Paul says. The devil has no opportunity to hammer you with the anger mallet because you've let it go.

A permissive father has a problem because, while he may be angry at a remark or the behavior of the child, he is unwilling to tackle the problem that will allow him to let it go. Even worse, perhaps, are those neglectful parents who cannot conjure up any anger at their child's misfeasance, leading the child to believe that his behavior is fine and dandy. These parents are often viewed as more "patient" and "loving" than others. But their lack of anger only serves to solidify in their kids the notion that one can do his own thing and get by with it. God doesn't do that. Christians don't do that.

Another example comes from one of Jesus' most famous parables, the parable of the soils (or "sower"). Luke 8:15 says that Jesus describes one kind of hearer as those who have "honest and good hearts who hold [the word] fast and bear fruit with perseverance." What does this have to do with being a good father? Well, dad, how do you receive the word? Do you receive it with "an honest and good heart"? That is, does your child see in you a constant willingness to change and grow? Or does he see the same ol', same ol' dad, never really progressing beyond the basics. Or, perhaps a father who, when the preacher says something convicting, complains or makes excuses? The child may be thinking, "Your actions speak so loud I can't hear what you're telling me."

Let's look at one more instance of a passage that is not directly related to fathering, but which should be viewed from the perspective of a father. In Acts 17:11, we read the oft-quoted statement about the people who "were more noble-minded" because they "received the word with great eagerness examining the Scriptures daily to see whether these things were so" (NASB). In light of this passage, I am always amazed when a father sits in a pew with his children all around, and doesn't even bother to open his Bible. What do you suppose the child learns?

Many older men – fathers and grandfathers – have made an impression on me. But the most enduring and pleasant image I have is of those men who loved the word of God, and that love was obvious. Their Bibles, often dog-eared and ragged, were always

within easy reach. Scriptures flowed easily into virtually any conversation and biblical principles formed the basis of their talk. Not surprisingly, in almost every case, their children are faithful adults and active Christians.

Good fathering is achieved by becoming a Christian, in the full sense of the word. If our children are to grow into faithful, devoted Christians; if they are to give their children direction and proper goals; and if they are to raise boys who will one day become effective fathers themselves, they must meet the formidable challenge of fatherhood. There is no alternative path. Our children are at stake.

David Posey

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Services

Sunday Morning Assembly
8:30AM & 10:15AM
Sunday Evening: 5:00 PM
Wednesday Bible Study
7:30 PM
Classes for all ages.
*Private classes arranged at your
convenience.*

For more information,
visit our web site at:

www.folsomchurch.com

Who Can Marry?

A biblical hermeneutic for marriage, and for divorce and remarriage

One would hope that in most churches of Christ today, “authority” is still a common subject of discussion and application. Where it is taken seriously, everything the church does religiously is put under the microscope and examined through the lens of Scripture. Our “hermeneutic” (method of interpretation) is based on finding authority for all we do. The reason we do not use mechanical instruments of music in our worship, in spite of its popularity, is simply because we have no “Thus says the Lord” on it. What we do have is a “Thus says the Lord” on singing, with no reference to musical instruments.

The same attitude must prevail in our personal lives. True, there are many decisions we make that are not regulated by God’s word, at least directly. There are principles that may apply in a given case, but whether we take a job as a civil engineer for the city of Folsom or begin a business as an architect is up to us.

Such is not the case, however, when it comes to personal moral decisions. When God has given specific direction in some area of our personal life, we must apply the exact same reasoning to those personal decisions as we apply to decisions affecting the church.

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Let’s see how this works when we examine the sometimes controversial issue of marriage. Instead of endless hypothetical cases, scenarios and endless emotional arguments (on both sides of the question) why not ask a very simple question: “Who is eligible to marry?” Since God has spoken on the subject (just as He has spoken on the subject of music in worship), we turn to His word to see what He authorizes.

When we look into the Bible, we find four classes of individuals who are undeniably eligible to marry. If you can find a fifth class, please let me know. Here are the four classes:

1. One who has never married.
2. One whose spouse has died.
3. One who has put away a spouse for fornication (Mt. 5:32)
4. A couple who has divorced but seek to reconcile (I Cor. 7:11)

We may discuss at length the rights of people to marry who are not in one of these categories. But my point is a very simple one: if we apply the same principle of interpretation to this issue as we apply to others, such as instrumental music, then we can say without any fear of contradiction: “God approves of marriage for any person in one of these categories.” In other words, if you find yourself in one of these categories, you have a clear “Thus says the Lord” for marriage.