

View

A Publication of the Folsom Point church of Christ. 900 E. Natoma, Folsom, CA

February 3, 2008

Rumors: How They Fly

Dee Bowman

Reporting is hard business. It takes a disciplined mind. It's hard to be objective. A good reporter must divorce himself from all his pre-suppositions, prejudices, pre-conceived notions. He has the responsibility to his readers or viewers to report facts as best as he can determine them. He has no business reporting hearsay, opinion, or other part-truths unless he identifies them as such. It takes concentration and a high regard for truth.

Distributing any truth requires the same integrity as that which is necessary for the good journalist. It, too, calls for intense concentration, an unbiased mind, a desire not only to know the truth, but to use it for good whenever and wherever possible. No person has the right to distribute untruth, hearsay, gossip.

The Scriptures assign an attitude for those who would dare speak of things to others publicly. For instance, "If any man speak, let him speak as the oracles of God" (1 Pet. 4:11), addresses the tendencies to report opinions and is God's warning against such. "There is a time to keep silence, and a time to speak" (Eccles. 3:7) speaks to the tendency to want to speak more than the occasion calls for, a constant problem for all of us it seems. "But speak thou the things which become sound doctrine" (Titus 2:1) calls to mind the necessity of adorning the doctrine of Christ with a disposition toward correctness, making sure that you do not speak opinion or promote your own surmisings.

The Scriptures also warns about speaking things to

privately as well. "Let your speech be always with grace, seasoned with salt" (Titus 2:8) reminds us to make sure that our speech has just the right flavor, that we make sure we do our best to say palatable things in every situation. "A fool is full of words," says the wise man (Eccles. 10:14), indicating that you become suspicious when you say too much about a thing. "A soft answer turneth away wrath: but grievous words stir up anger" (Prov. 15:1) tells us about

how to handle controversial matters and is a passage everyone would do well to commit to memory.

Then there are those private reporters, those who speak in hushed tones and report in secret, those who seemingly take great delight in spreading rumors and other hurtful information. A

Gossip is a newsmonger, one who

carries about information that is mostly undocumented in nature and unproductive in effect. It is speech which is seldom intended to edify and will usually include such things as idle talk, tattling, rumors. Sadly, most everyone has participated in it at one time or the other. And even more sadly, many have done so with full knowledge of what they were doing.

"Behold how great a matter a little fire kindleth!" (Jas. 3:5). It takes only a small amount of kindling to start a huge conflagration and the skilled gossip knows just how to do it. He may just lift an eyebrow or crook his mouth. He may offer some innuendo or half-truth. He may start some rumor in a place where he knows it will spread like wildfire. He may write something without confirming the source or

A Gossip is a newsmonger, one who carries about information that is mostly undocumented in nature and unproductive in effect.

continued from page 1

examining all the facts just because the rumor he is reporting fits what he wants to report.

Gossip is ugly. Gossip is sinful. But gossip is effective, too. "Dead flies cause the ointment of the apothecary to send forth a stinking savor; so doth a little folly him that is in reputation for wisdom and honor" (Eccles. 10:1). A man's reputation, which may have taken years to build, can be destroyed by one little, well-placed rumor, just as the ointment which may have taken months to prepare can be destroyed when one little stink-fly lands in the potion. It is a serious thing to report information which is not true or pass along what has never been proven. But people do it all the time. And get away with it.

Two things would help.

Don't repeat anything you don't know for sure. The world of gossip operates on a chain reaction. When the chain is broken, the gossip stops.

Remember you are responsible for what you tell. No matter where you got it, it's still your responsibility. Just don't re-tell and you won't have to worry about it. Make sure it needs to be told before you tell it.

Are We Secularizing Our Children

Sewell Hall

Several years ago, a Christian who was the president of a large state university stated his belief that students do not lose their faith because of evolution in the science department or humanism in the philosophy, psychology, or sociology departments. Rather, he felt that they become so absorbed with secular studies and secular activities that they do not take time for spiritual things. They neglect attendance at services, neglect Bible study and make their friends among worldly people. They die spiritually, not from poison but from spiritual malnutrition. Today, this is happening to children long before they get to college. And some of the finest, best intentioned and most sacrificial and loving parents are contributing to it. Please pardon a personal reference. My parents were very concerned about keeping control of their children. My father complained 50 years ago that the schools were trying to take over the rearing of children and he was determined not to let that happen to his family. Anything the school planned that conflicted with church activities was considered an encroachment by the school. We did not participate in organized sports, either in school or in summer programs. We did not play in the band or join the scouts. As a rule, when school was out we came home.

You may think my parents extreme. Perhaps they were. But one thing was certain: We had time for whatever Christians were doing anywhere in the areas where we lived. We not only attended every regular service and every service of gospel meetings in our home congregation, but we attended most services of any meeting anywhere in driving distance even when meetings lasted the greater part of two weeks. Preachers who came preaching in the area learned to expect the Hall family near the front of the building night after night. I never remember going out of town for a ball game, but I remember many trips out of town to gospel meetings and lectureships. Those gospel preachers became our heroes and the members of those congregations became the friends whose respect and confidence we most desired. This is not to say that all parents should adopt the policies of my parents. I did not adhere to all of them in raising my children. But surely some limits need to be imposed on the run-away secularism now so common. Children are the busiest people in town. Schools have lengthened the school day and long bus rides often require children to leave home very early in the morning and return late in the afternoon. Then they have homework to get. Much extra time in school is spent in humanistic activities. Children are constantly exposed to vulgarity and profanity not only from fellow-students,

Published by
The church of Christ
Meeting at 900 E. Natoma
PO Box 492
Folsom, CA 95630
916/608-4866

Elders

Forrest Brown: 530/295-9230
Randy Clark: 916/939-5066
Rich Ladd: 916/774-9048
David Posey: 530/676-9514

Deacons

Brent Agee: 916/786-0436
Bryan Byrd: 916/351-9320
David Byrd: 916/985-6564
Michael Caisse: 530/672-2902
Jeff Clark: 916/985-8689
John Daniels: 916/985-3090
Jerry Deschler: 916/285-9115
Steve Dickey: 916/983-1071
Steven Doty: 916/933-5004
Eric Fields: 916/817-6495
David Main: 650/292-5417
Terry Raposa: 916/782-1140
Dane Scott: 916/631-7221
Russ Tarrant: 530/672-1748
Steve Thompson: 916/983-4170
Jeff Warshaw: 916/933-9399

Evangelist/Editor

David Posey: 530/676-9514

dp@folsomchurch.com
dp@pacbell.net

Services

Sunday Morning Assembly
9:30 AM

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

Agenda

The Lord's Day, February 3, 2008

9:30 AM: Worship: Singing, Lord's Supper, Preaching
Sermon: TBA

◆ Preaching: Grant Mulligan

5:00 PM: Lord's Supper, Singing, Preaching

◆ Sermon: Jeff Herrin

5:30 PM: Bible Classes for ages 18 mos., & up

Auditorium: What Jesus Wants to Know (various teachers)

Room 11-12: The Parables (David Byrd)

Room 8: Seed-Sowers (Dennis Wade & Cameron Carrozza)

Wednesday, February 6, 2008

10 AM, Bible class will resume in February 13, 2008.

7:30 PM, Bible Classes for ages 18 mos. and up

Auditorium: The Sayings of Jesus (Rich Mowrer)

Room 11-12: Parenting by the Book (David Posey & Dennis Wade)

Notes

Sermons and Power Point charts are available online on our website (www.folsomchurch.com) or on CD (see a deacon)

but even from teachers. They desperately need counteracting spiritual influences.

Many conscientious parents, however, want still more secular opportunities for their children than the standard curriculum provides. They encourage participation in extra-curricular sports organized by the school and in others that are privately organized, occupying afternoons and Saturdays and even portions of Sundays as well as the summer months. Students not inclined to sports are encouraged to join the band with long hours of after-school practice, summer band camps, compulsory Friday night football in the fall and concerts in the spring. In addition, there are often private music lessons. Scouts also provide wholesome experiences, and parents want their children to be involved. In fact, they feel that their children are deprived if they miss any of these opportunities, and so to provide them parents pack their own schedules full, taxiing the children here and there and sacrificially spending their energy and money.

What is wrong with these things? Generally nothing. The problem is that they are dominating children's lives. No wonder it has become impossible to plan a gospel meeting at a time when it does not conflict with some kind of secular activity! No wonder it is exceptional when students attend every night of such a meeting! No wonder very few parents and even fewer young people are to be seen at special services beyond their own congregation!

A negative attitude seems to be developing toward anything the church plans beyond the usual Sunday morning, Sunday night, and Wednesday night assemblies or toward any extension of evening activities beyond one hour. The church is considered insensitive when anything is planned that encroaches on children's busy secular activities.

When do we expect our children to change from this heavily weighted emphasis on this world to "seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness?" If they

become accustomed to a secular schedule in elementary school, high school will only increase the pressure. College allows still less time for the Lord unless there is a purposeful determination to keep the lid on secular demands. If such priorities have not been learned under the guidance of parents, it is unlikely they will be developed when students are on their own in college. By the time those school years of immersion in secularism are over, there is usually very little spiritual life left in them. And it all begins when they are young!

Preachers We Help Support

John Scholtz - South Africa, Zimbabwe

Robert Nichols - Japan

Barney Mejía - Nicaragua

Dale Pennock - Vermont

Gary Stouffer - Vista, CA

Jim Lee - Englewood, Ohio

Jeff Carr - Mandeville, LA

Roberto Tondelli, Rome, Italy

Philippines

Armando C. Pastor - Sto. Domingo & Dumabel

Pepe G. Ando - Davao City

Amado M. Estoy - Iriga City

Ecclesiastes C. Licayan - Monkayo

Abe S. Aguete - Pagudpud

Rex M. Bayaca - Laoag City

James Amangan - Bangued

Quirino Tien - Cagayan Valley

Rosilito F. Nardo in Koronadal City.

Johnny Buguis in General Santos City.

Romel Dazon in General Santos City.