

Calendar:

Group 4 will meet today after the morning service at the Ladd's home.

Group 10 Feb 20th - Saturday - 6 to 8 pm at the Raposa's home.

Group 3 Feb 21st - after Sunday evening Bible Class at David & Heather Byrd's home

The Rumors: How They Fly!

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 surmising.



The Scriptures also warns about speaking things to others 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

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
Dennis Reagan: 916/797-5539

Deacons

Brent Agee: 916/786-0436
Bryan Byrd: 916/351-9320
David Byrd: 916/985-6564
Barrett Cain: 916/351-0774
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
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
dpaulposey@mac.com

Service Times

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.

www.folsomchurch.com

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 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. - Dee Bowman

Jesus And The Children

Infant rantism [sprinkling] is a substitute for the personal obedience the Lord requires in com-

manding believers to be baptized. Maybe your dear mother did bear you gently to a priest or a minister and have your forehead touched with his damp finger when you were so young you cannot now remember. The Lord will not accept it in lieu of your personal obedience. There is not a command, example, or necessary inference in the New Testament justifying the sprinkling of water on even one infant. Infants cannot believe, do not need to repent, and not one scriptural reason has ever been offered for either rantizing or baptizing them. A postmaster in a Texas town, and a devout Methodist, cited me to the story of Jesus and the children as though the case were plainly made out in his favor. “Then there were brought unto him little children, that he should lay his hands on them, and pray: and the disciples rebuked them. But Jesus said, Suffer the little children, and forbid them not, to come unto me: for to such belongeth the kingdom of heaven.” (Matt. 19: 13-15.) It is quite strange with what facility religionists can find water where there is none at all, and cannot find any at all in such an expression as “born of water” in John 3: 5. When Jesus laid his hands on the children and prayed, they see clear authority for a preacher sprinkling water on a baby, although such a thing is not remotely implied in the text; but when they read that “we were buried therefore with him through baptism into death” (Rom. 6: 4), they cannot imagine even one drop of water. A strange perverseness has taken hold of the hearts of the people. We wonder if we are not justified in bringing the language of Jesus down to date: “For this people's heart is waxed gross, and their ears are dull of hearing, and their eyes they have closed; lest haply they should perceive with their eyes, and hear with their ears, and understand with their heart, and should turn again, and I should heal them.” (Matt. 13: 15.)

Religious bias can cause a man to see a thing in a text which is not there, and he ought not therefore to see, and it can blind his eyes to something which is there, and which he therefore ought to see. He ought to be able to see, for instance, that Jesus did not consider that these “little children” were totally depraved by birth. His language is most interesting when compared with that Calvinistic dogma.

Cled E Wallace July 1944 - The Bible Banner