

"...having the eyes of your heart enlightened..." Ephesians 1:18

Welcome Visitors!

You are our honored guests and we are pleased that you have chosen to visit us today. Our goal is to do everything according to God's word, including respecting its silence. This is a church of Christ; we are not a denomination, not part of anything larger than this local church and we have no earthly "headquarters." The six elders oversee this work and, ultimately, we answer only to Christ. The comments you hear today are primarily aimed at our own members, as we examine Scripture and seek to be built up in our faith in Christ. If you don't understand something, please do not hesitate to ask one of the elders. We welcome and appreciate your comments and questions on any issue and especially if you see or hear anything that you feel does not correspond to God's word. We are here to serve; please help us do that.

Please fill out a visitor's card and put it in the collection plate. Thank You

Schedule

The Lord's Day

9:30 AM – Classes

Auditorium: Fellowship

Room 13/14: Jesus in the Gospel of John (cont'd)

Room 17 – Young Adults Class (18-29)

10:30 AM – Assembly

Speaking today: Zach McGinnis

2 PM Class at the Building

Hebrews (Room 13/14)

5 PM (building)

Proverbs

Weekly Young Adults Class

Class at Posey's: 5 PM

Tuesday Class: 10 AM at the Building

"That Your Love May Abound More and More"

Philippians 1:9

Wednesday, 7 PM

Auditorium: Fellowship

Room 13/14: Jesus in the Gospel of John (cont'd)

Men's Saturday Morning Meeting

7 AM, second Saturday of the month (see Tyler Wade)

Information

Website & Online Presence

Visit our website at www.folsomchurch.com for updates and material on current and past classes, and recorded sermons and classes. You will also find a directory of churches on page one. If you are a member of the church here at Folsom, see one of the deacons or elders to inquire about access to the password -protected members section. Find us on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/folsomchurch>

Children's Classes

We have classes for children from 18 months and up. Please see the map in the hallway or ask any of the members which room is appropriate for you and/or your child. There are several Bible studies in progress on Sunday afternoon and evening. Check with David Posey if you have questions.

Restrooms

There are two sets of restrooms: one off the first hallway to the right of the lobby and another at the end of the first hallway to the left. Ask anyone and they'll be happy to point you in the right direction.

For Small Children

There is a special room for nursing mothers and a separate "cry room" at the rear of the auditorium. You enter them from the first hallway to the right, across from the restrooms.

View & Junior View

Be sure to pick up a copy of the View and Junior View; both are sent out weekly to our member list and hard copies are printed on Sundays and available in the foyer.

Questions to ask yourself at the end of the Lord's Day today:

1. Is there change I need to make?
2. Is there sin I need to confess?
3. Is there truth I need to embrace?
4. Is there doctrine I need to study?
5. Is there a prayer I need to pray?

“I’VE GOT A QUESTION”

In the never-ending attempt to make the *View* as useful and practical as possible, I’m adding a regular column entitled “I’ve Got a Question.” We encourage questions here – questions about something said in a class; questions about what we do and why we do them; questions about how we worship; questions about the sermon – or any other question a member or visitor might have. In our newly formed (or reformed) young people’s class, the teachers are dealing with “Life’s Difficult Questions” and we begin all of our 5 PM classes at our house each week with questions from the students. Sometimes, we ask them to write them on a card, so they can ask anonymously.

I hope it’s obvious from this that we are not afraid of questions; we urge our members to ask them in whatever format works best – personally, or by text or email. You can ask any member here, including me (my info is on page 4, along with all the deacons and other elders).

We’re also not afraid to say that *not every question can be answered*, at least definitively. Christie and I attended churches where questions were either not encouraged or where we were expected to settle for a “pat” (e.g., glib and unconvincing) answer or, even worse, where “answers” were manufactured out of thin air. For example, I heard a preacher make an argument against gambling based on the account of Jesus cleansing the temple. What?

I have a lot of questions of my own, so I will use this column to raise those questions and attempt to answer them, if possible. But this section will be a lot more interesting – and challenging – if we get questions from our readers. I’m going to call on some of our members to help out in answering them as well, so you are not only getting my perspective. In other words, we’ll have some “guest” writers answering questions now and then.

So, bring it on. No question concerning spiritual things is off the table and there are no dumb questions if they are coming from a sincere heart.

“I’ve Got a Question”

I’ll start with a rather light-hearted one: who was the first man who, in a public prayer, used the term “on roads of travel” or “on beds of affliction”? And how on earth did those clichés spread through churches like a California wildfire? That’s what I want to know.

Of course, there is no answer to this question. But it does raise other interesting questions about the nature of prayer (especially public prayer) and the use of wordy clichés. While they are not sinful, necessarily, they do raise suspicion that the man who is praying is using a separate “prayer language” instead of just talking to God.

I don’t remember how old I was before I realized that *guideguardlanddirectus* was not one word. And I have never in my life heard someone say, in planning a trip, that they headed out on “roads of travel.” Nor have I ever been told that brother so and so is not in attendance because he is on “a bed of affliction.” We need to remove these clichés from our prayers and just talk to God, reverently and honestly.

Q: “Why so little teaching on...”

Here’s a more serious question. This one comes from one of our young people and is a very good one. The question is: “Why does the Bible have comparatively little to say about marriage and child-rearing?” The larger context of the question has to do with a question on II Peter 1:3 which seems to say that the Bible addresses

each and every question that someone may ask and some teachers in that past have seemed to suggest that that’s so. To that question, we can say, “no, that text is not saying that.” I believe “life” refers to living a life that is pleasing to God, a life “in Christ.” God has given us all things that we need to accomplish that. It’s demonstrably true that the Bible leaves many decisions to our judgment, even on such important matters as how we conduct our assemblies. However, some teachers and preachers may have left the impression — or even stated explicitly — that the Bible deals with everything. I heard that when I was a kid and, when I got older, I found out that many of the “answers” were constructed from verses that had nothing to do with the subject at hand.

We’ll have more to say on that but to the specific question about why there is such relatively little teaching on child-rearing and marriage, I have to disagree. I believe the Bible has a great deal to say on those topics, even though there are few passages that specifically begin with words like, “to parents...” or “to those of you who are married...” However, there are many passages that address, by principle, the common issues we face in both relationships. In sermons, I have often reminded those who are in the midst of parenting to listen — in every class and during every sermon — to find something they can apply to their parenting responsibility. The same is true for marriage.

For one example, the Bible discusses the topic of wisdom at length in the book of Proverbs. Studying that book is better than buying ten self-help books from Amazon. The Bible also deals with discipline and it describes love in many ways and through many examples. The Sermon on the Mount is also a great parenting resource; so is much of Ecclesiastes. I Corinthians 13 may be all we need to solidify a marriage, if we read it closely and define the terms. Nearly every passage on love can be applied to marriage — and forgiveness and kindness and patience.

Most of the Bible is written to specific groups for a specific purpose, but we can learn from them. For instance, Deuteronomy 6 (and subsequent chapters in that book) provides tremendous principles for parents about teaching children about God and his work. Of course, there are specific teachings on marriage itself. One of the most profound passages in the Bible is on marriage (Ephesians 5:22-33).

I heard someone say, once, in answer to the question about why the Bible says so little about slavery that if the culture adopted the teachings of Jesus and the writers of the New Testament, slavery would cease to exist. That makes a lot of sense to me. If parents would study and apply scripture, they’ll be good parents. Same for spouses. Just apply the principles.

dp

From Cultural Translator (11/27/2019)

He's Coming for You

What it is: No, not Santa. This time it's Baby Yoda via memes, GIFs, and even merch ("merchandise"; get with it, Boomers {wink, wink}).

Why it's everywhere: The character—not actually baby Yoda, but "The Child"—is from *The Mandalorian*, and fans everywhere have become enamored with the adorable pointy-eared, bug-eyed creature. Not only have memes and GIFs begun proliferating, but Twitter accounts dedicated solely to Baby Yoda have sprung up, amassing thousands of followers. Truly, the cuteness level should not be underestimated, which is why it's quite possible your teens will add either official or unofficial merch to their Christmas wish lists this year, even if they haven't seen the show. Thankfully, the trend is quite wholesome—something we could use more of these days.

The Gift of Gratitude

According to the National Institutes of Health, nearly 1 out of every 3 adolescents between the ages of 13 and 18 will experience an anxiety disorder. Whether the culprit is social media, lack of sleep, increased scholastic pressure, or screen time, the verdict is simple: Our kids need help.

Thankfully, emerging evidence reveals an organic way to combat anxiety and depression: gratitude. According to author Jerusha Clark, "Gratitude and anxiety are mutually exclusive neural pathways. You physiologically cannot be grateful and anxious at the same time." One way to foster gratitude is to simply pay attention to your life. Be fully present in every single tiny moment, and remember that life itself is a gift. So, in a world filled with darkness, we're choosing to see the light, to be grateful for the good.

Devices

If your teen loves the streaming app Twitch, they might not be watching for the video game live-play. "Twitch for introverts" continues to boom in popularity, as users stream themselves reading, knitting, sewing, and painting. Some of these streamers are much older than their target audience (users interviewed were in their 40s or older), but that doesn't mean there's anything nefarious going on. In fact, these types of hobby channels might be less likely to have toxic behavior going on in the comments, according to at least one expert.

Social Media

The New York Times critic-at-large, Amanda Hess, took note of how the invention of social media platforms has forever changed the way we see celebrities. Boomers, Gen X, and even some Millennials grew up understanding celebrities as personalities we could interact with from afar. But after 2009, celebrity culture became driven by celebrities themselves posting on social media, making them both more easily accessible (you can comment, and they see it!) and somehow more opaque (more than ever, we only see what celebrities want us to). It's an interesting perspective that explains at least some of the complicated relationships teens have with celeb and influencer culture.

FOMO

Social media posts about holiday joy and celebration inevitably bring a sense of FOMO (fear of missing out) to adults and teens alike. Some internet "experts" may say that those feelings are natural and okay. While it is valid to feel jealous, sad, or confused when you compare

your holiday to someone else's, as Christians, the spirit of comparison is fundamentally in opposition to concepts of thankfulness. Remind your teens that there's no such thing as a "picture-perfect" holiday, and be aware of the messages you're sending with your actions. Resisting your own urges to make every

moment a Kodak one is the foundation of a stress-free holiday with teens.

"I'm gonna tell my kids"

The "I'm gonna tell my kids" meme that started on Twitter this week is... not what it sounds like! You might assume from the name that your teens are deciding which family traditions and personal points of pride they plan to share with their own children one day. If you were to make that assumption, you'd be disappointed. "I'm gonna tell my kids" takes present day moments in celebrity pop culture and captions them with an alternative history. (Picture Snooki, of *Jersey Shore* fame, poised over a computer keyboard with the caption, "I'm gonna tell my kids this was the Declaration of Independence.") The meme is, thankfully, harmless fun, and you could even participate by showing your kids of a photo of your younger years with a spoofed headline of your own.

[I've seen several of these and some are pretty funny—but a little sad, too, because it's playing on the notion that some kids are not learning real history, but some revisionist version of it. —*dp*]