

July 18, 2021

The Sunday View

"Sir, we wish to see Jesus." – John 12:21

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 at the entrance. Thank You

Schedule

The Lord's Day

Bible Classes for All Ages

9:30 AM

Auditorium: Ephesians

Brady Rembleski

Assembly

10:30 AM

Livestream at 10:30 at <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCLEmwy2lYxrL7ZUgTiZIVqA>

Speaking today: David Posey

A Rude Awakening

Genesis 6

Young People's Class

5 PM Every Sunday

Contact David Posey for information at
(530) 558-5057

The middle school class is held once a month. Contact Dan Stegall for information at (818) 209-9810

Weekly Classes

Zoom Class: Mondays @ 7PM

The character of Moses

Contact Jack Horak @ jshorak98@gmail.com

Wednesday 7 PM @ Building

Auditorium: Ephesians

David Posey

Saturday Men's Breakfast

7 AM, second Saturday of the month
Contact Tyler Wade @ tyler@ppldev.com

Additional Classes

There are some home studies in progress. If you are interested in participating in any of them, please contact David Posey

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>

Classes & Home Studies

We have classes for children from 18 months and up on Wednesday night at 7 PM. 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.

Prayer Requests & News Items

Send to David Posey at
dpaulposey@mac.com or text at
530-558-5057

Are There “Gray Areas” in Morality?

BY DAVID POSEY

The term “gray area” is typically used to describe moral issues about which, arguably, there is less clarity in the Bible. For example, everyone who values God’s word agrees that drunkenness is sinful. But some argue that questions about whether you should drink any alcoholic beverage is a “gray area.” There are many examples of similar, so-called “gray area” issues. My aim in this article is to explore that notion because, while it seems to make sense, I don’t believe there really are “gray area issues,” as that term is generally used. An activity is either right or wrong, not somewhere in between.

“Gray area,” when applied to moral issues, is the idea is that there are “white” issues — things that are indisputably right — and “black” issues — things that are indisputably wrong. “Gray” issues, then, are things that are not indisputably right or wrong.

But is that true? We know there are actions and words that are sinful on their face, regardless of context, circumstances or motive. Sexual immorality is sinful and, as painful as it is for some to accept, it is easy to define: all sexual activity, outside of a lawful marriage, as defined the Bible, is sinful. Sexual activity is defined as touching the private areas of a member of the opposite sex who is not your lawfully married spouse (or *thinking* about doing that; see Matthew 5:27-28). A “lawful marriage” is the uniting in marriage of a biological man and a biological women who are qualified to be married. That means that when they married (a) neither had been married before, or (b) one or both had been married but their spouses died, or (c) they had been married previously but their partners committed adultery, or (d) they had been married to each other, then separated or divorced and they reconciled (I Corinthians 7:11). There is no “gray area” when it comes to sexual issues.

But how about issues that are not addressed specifically in the Bible? For example, I’m not aware of a specific prohibition against gambling. “Gambling” is the act of putting a relatively small amount of money at risk with the hope of receiving a large amount of money in return, strictly by chance. Is that a “gray” area? No, because the motive, greed — or at least profiting without labor — is sinful. Greed (covetousness) is specifically condemned in the Bible (Colossians 3:5). Furthermore, it’s impossible to gamble without indirectly depriving someone else of money. If you go to Reno and win a sum of money at the Peppermill Casino it’s not Peppermill’s money you won; it’s the money of others who lost. The Bible is clear that our income is to come from honorable labor, not from “chance” (see Ephesians 4:28).

Drinking alcohol, certain kinds of dancing, certain kinds of speech — you name it. They are not gray areas.

The actions in these areas are either right or wrong, given the circumstance, the motive and how it affects others.

Dancing, for example, is not a “gray area.” Years ago, many of us were taught that “dancing is sinful — just don’t do it. Period.” That wasn’t helpful and calls into question the credibility of those who taught us. It also ignores several Bible passages that mention dancing in positive contexts. David “*danced before the Lord*” (II Samuel 6:14); Solomon said, “*there’s a time to dance...*” (Ecclesiastes 3:4); Psalm 150:4 says, “*Praise him with tambourine and dance; praise him with strings and pipe!*” (see 149:3). And, there was music and dancing at the party for the prodigal son (Luke 15:25). Jesus would not include a patently ungodly act in a parable. The “all dancing is sinful” tribe explains those passages away, or simply ignores them. “All dancing is sinful, *period*” is not speaking where the Bible speaks because there *is* a kind of dancing that is not sinful.

Having said that, of course we know that there is also “dirty dancing” — lewd and lascivious dancing that promotes lust. And there is dancing that is, as Cole Porter said in the 1930s, “making love to music.” That kind of dancing is sinful (unless your dancing with your spouse). But to lump all dances under the dirty dancing label is ridiculous. It is not necessary or honest to put a fence around all kinds of dancing in order to prevent lustful dancing. Dancing isn’t a “gray area”; it is either right or wrong.

We could multiply examples of so-called “gray areas,” but you get the point. Even an act that is right may be wrong when practiced in certain circumstances. An obvious example is doing something in the presence of someone when you know his conscience will be offended by it. Paul said, “*Everything is indeed clean but it is wrong for anyone to make another stumble by what he eats. It is not good to eat meat or drink wine or do anything that causes your brother to stumble*” (Romans 14:21). He also warned, “*take care that this right of yours does not somehow become a stumbling block to the weak*” (I Corinthians 8:9). Many things that are not in themselves sinful may be sinful because of how they affect others.

The idea that there are a plethora of “gray areas” in our moral universe is a falsehood sown by those who take comfort in believing the Bible doesn’t address “modern moral dilemmas,” leaving them free to choose. On the contrary, the Bible does address “*all things that pertain to life and godliness*” (II Peter 1:3) and God expects us to utilize his word in a way that allows us to distinguish between good and evil (Hebrews 5:14). Doing that effectively is a mark of maturity.

Culture Corner

“Do not be conformed to this world but be transformed by the renewing of your mind...”

Romans 12:2

Stay Away: Arguments Creationists Should NOT Make

SUBMITTED BY DENNIS WADE

Well-intentioned creationists are not exempt from repeating hearsay and false science. If you engage in a discussion with an evolutionist or teach a Bible class, please stay away from the following arguments. Most of these were false from the beginning, and some were slightly true at one time. Source: Creation.com – <https://creation.com/arguments-we-think-creationists-should-not-use>

(Note: each of the bullet point is clickable in the digital version of the View. The website also has a link for each one to provide more detail – very helpful.)

- Darwin recanted on his deathbed
- If we evolved from apes, why are there still apes today?
- Earth’s division in the days of Peleg (Genesis 10:25) refers to catastrophic splitting of the continents
- Women have one more rib than men
- The phrase ‘science falsely so called’ in 1 Timothy 6:20 (KJV) refers to evolution
- No new species have been produced
- The 2nd Law of Thermodynamics began at the Fall
- Earth’s axis was vertical before the Flood
- NASA computers, in calculating the positions of planets, found a missing day and 40 minutes
- Archaeopteryx is a fraud
- Paluxy tracks prove that humans and dinosaurs co-existed
- The earth is flat
- Woolly mammoths were snap frozen during the Flood catastrophe
- Castenedolo and Calaveras human remains in ‘old’ strata invalidate the geologic column
- Dubois renounced Java man as a “missing link” and claimed it was just a giant gibbon
- The Japanese trawler Zuiyo Maru caught a dead plesiosaur near New Zealand
- There are no beneficial mutations
- Archaeologists have found skeletons (and footprints) of giant human beings
- Jesus cannot have inherited genetic material from Mary, otherwise He would have inherited original sin
- Laminin: an amazing look at how Jesus is holding each of us together
- Light was created in transit
- Geocentrism (in the classical sense of taking the Earth as an absolute reference frame) is taught by Scripture and Heliocentrism is anti-Scriptural
- Ron Wyatt has found Noah’s Ark
- Many of Carl Baugh’s creation ‘evidences’
- Missing solar neutrinos prove that the sun shines by gravitational collapse, and is proof of a young sun
- Canopy theory

Contextualization: Text Impacts Life

Baptism

This statement occurred on the website, “One Minute Apologist” by Bobby Conway.

There is a lot of confusion about baptism today, and many end up at one of two extremes. At one end are people who exclaim, “Baptism is necessary for salvation.” At the other end are people who avoid baptism altogether. What do we do with this tension? For starters, realize that both extremes are extreme.

Baptism is not necessary for salvation. If it were, Paul the apostle never would have said, “For Christ did not send me to baptize but to preach the gospel” (1 Corinthians 1:17a). Paul valued baptism, dearly, but preaching the gospel was his core concern because he knew that receiving the gospel by faith was the necessary ingredient for salvation.

First, when someone says that “there is a lot of confusion...” about a Bible topic, that should be a warning to you.

Second, did you catch the fallacy? Even ignoring the context for a minute, his take on 1 Corinthians 1:17a doesn’t prove his point. That Paul wasn’t sent to baptize does not prove that baptism is not necessary for salvation. Preachers are not sent to baptize; that would have the cart before the horse. We preach the gospel but what happens when someone responds to the gospel? That’s where baptism comes in. No one is saved by the

mere preaching of the gospel; it must be obeyed. In fact, in the next paragraph the writer admits that baptism is a *command*, quoting Matthew 28:19. Yet he maintains that we can disobey this command and still be saved. So, what *other* “commands” we can knowingly disobey and still be saved? I would answer: zero.

The context of 1 Corinthians 1 clarifies what Paul means in v. 17a. Paul is scolding the Corinthians for their “quarreling” and dividing. They were lining up behind certain teachers and splitting into parties: the Apollos party, the Cephas party and the Paul party (there was even a “Christ” party). The reason Paul is thankful he didn’t baptize many is because that might lead people to join the “Paul party.” Paul wanted no part of that. He is making the point in this text that it’s not about *who* baptized *who*, but about being of the same mind and same judgment (1:10). After all, Christ is not divided therefore, his body should not be divided. And consider this: Paul asks, “were you baptized in the name of Paul?” (1:13b). He doesn’t say “if” but “when.” That statement assumes baptism and is therefore strong evidence that every Christian in Corinth had been baptized.