

August 22, 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

9:30 AM

Bible Classes for All Ages

Auditorium: Ephesians

Young Adult Class (room 17/18)

Assembly: 10:30 AM

Livestream at 10:30 at <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCLEmwy2IYxrL7ZUgTiZTVqA>

Speaking today: David Posey

Jesus: Our Influencer

Hebrews class today @ 2 PM at the building

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

Zoom Class: Mondays @ 7PM: The character of Moses

Contact Jack Horak @ jshorak98@gmail.com

Wednesday 7 PM @ Building

Bible classes for all ages

Ephesians: Auditorium

Saturday Men's Breakfast

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

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

Abortion

Can you imagine standing at the Judgment having spent your life, or any portion of it, supporting, condoning or, in the case of some in our society, *championing* abortion?

To “abort” means to terminate something that is in the process. In most dictionaries today, the first definition of “abortion” is “to terminate a pregnancy.” That’s a soft way of describing the intentional killing of a human being while in the womb. Among Christians, this should go without saying. The psalmist recognized that life begins in the womb:

For you formed my inward parts;
you knitted me together in
my mother’s womb.

I praise you, for I am fearfully
and wonderfully made

Psalms 139:13-14a

Moira Donegan wrote an article in *The Nation* in December 2019, entitled, *The Pro-Choice Movement Has Won the Culture War* with this subtitle: *Abortion has never been less taboo than it is today.* Here is an excerpt that is among the most repugnant verbiage I’ve ever read:

I own a tote bag that says “I had an abortion” in blue block letters. I also have a T-shirt that says “Everyone loves someone who had an abortion.” You can get a pro-abortion holographic fanny pack as part of a fundraiser for the National Network of Abortion Funds. In Shout Your Abortion’s online store,* there’s a gold necklace that reads “Abortion” in the script font of a nameplate and sweatshirts that read “*Elaborto es normal*” in gothic letters reminiscent of the *New York Times* logo. There are simple statements, like the T-shirts that implore “Ask me about my abortion” in plain sans serif white letters on a black field. Some items are snazzier, like the gold notebook and the pair of shiny purple earrings from the NNAF, both of which proclaim “Fund abortion, build power.”

...The recent wave of pro-choice merchandising is part of a growing effort... that has a long history. For years, feminists have embarked on public projects meant to change hearts and minds about abortions and the people who have them. Many of these have focused on the confessional, with women speaking about their abortions in an effort to humanize and contextualize the issue.

The most visible effort to move first-person abortion storytelling into the public eye began during feminism’s second wave era. In March of 1969, the New York City socialist feminist group Redstockings arranged for women to tell their abortion stories not in whispers or behind closed doors but in public, on the steps of Greenwich Village’s Washington Square United Methodist Church. Twelve women spoke about their experiences as abortion patients in front of about 300 people, four years before the Supreme Court’s decision in *Roe v. Wade*.

We talk a lot about the need to change hearts and minds and bring them in compliance with Jesus’ heart and mind. That’s our evangelistic mission. But there are many cultural “evangelists” that have set out to do the same thing and, arguably, have been more successful.

There *are* other voices, though, that get a hearing in the national press. Former NFL tight end Benjamin Watson speaks out against abortion and, due to his relative fame, he gets a hearing. On Thursday (August 19, 2021) *USA Today* published a lengthy article by Watson. Here is an excerpt:

Abortion is almost always in the news, and will be again when the Supreme Court hears the latest case out of Mississippi. But the news almost never gets abortion right. Some of our country’s leading politicians refuse to recognize that a preborn child is a human life. And when pro-life advocates fight hard to protect these preborn humans in our laws, they get painted as the bad guys.

The problem here is that our country’s culture is built upon a pernicious lie about the preborn. In the fight over abortion, our culture suggests that the preborn have to prove to us why and when they deserve protection, care and a chance to live. The preborn have to prove they won’t inconvenience us. If the preborn are deemed too

burdensome, too genetically different, or just too untimely and unwelcome, they can be killed.

But this approach seriously misunderstands what it means to be a human being. Our dignity as humans – our fundamental worthiness to exist – doesn’t have to be proven; it is an endowment we receive at the moment of conception and

keep forever until our natural death. Nobody should have to pass a test to deserve to exist.

Whenever you conceive a child, our pro-abortion culture wants you to put that child to the test. It wants you to scrutinize his or her stats. Does a baby fit your lifestyle? Is the baby the right gender? (Thirty-nine states let you abort a child specifically because of his or her gender.) Is the baby the right race? (Forty-six states let you abort a child specifically because of his or her race.) Does he or she have any medical conditions or disabilities? Does the baby have Down Syndrome? Do you have just the right amount of money – or what you think is the right amount of money – for the child? Is he or she coming at an opportune time?

To be sure, many women and families do not abort their child cavalierly, they are pained over the decision. But those families need help and support. We should not pressure them into abortion or try to discount the seriousness of abortion by, for instance, normalizing abortion-themed merchandise (see above).

When you just look at the “stats” for preborn life, you get into a mindset where you need to justify the existence of pre-born life. As human beings, we tend to think that whatever looks good or is important to us is what ultimately matters and what ultimately has value. When we look at the preborn in this way, we’re unable to see the inherent dignity of the preborn.

But none of these things affect a person’s human dignity...

...What we have to discover, as a country and as a culture, is a shared understanding that human dignity doesn’t have to be earned, and it can never be lost. Our culture should not determine whether the preborn should live, whether the poor should be cared for and whether the oppressed should be helped.

Instead, we should insist at all times and in all places that that human life is sacred, worthy of respect from conception to natural death. If we could see the inherent worth of every human life, something as devastating and harmful as abortion would not simply be unwelcome or undesirable; it would be unthinkable too.

Benjamin Watson is a former Super Bowl champion and NFL tight end. He is the current vice president of strategic relationships with Human Coalition, a pro-life organization that operates several telehealth and in-person women’s care clinics.

Synergy of the Spirit

BY TERRY RAPOSA

Many members but one body

In I Corinthians 12:12-26 Apostle Paul uses the human body as a metaphor to explain the relationship and function between members in the body of Christ. The metaphor is helpful because it explains how the church is a spiritual body of Christ by using something physical that we are very familiar with: the human body.

Every member is needed to make a whole

We can easily understand what Paul is getting at when he writes: "if the foot should say, 'because I am not a hand, I do not belong to the body,' that would not make it any less a part of the body" (I Cor. 12:15). He also explained that "if one member suffers, all suffer together; if one member is honored, all rejoice together" (I Cor. 12:26).

Synergy

Even the "pinky toe" is important. We are reminded of this when we stub our toe on a piece of furniture. If it is severely injured we may "buddy tape" it by taping it to the fourth toe to splint it. According to the Oxford Dictionary, the word "synergy" means to "work together". Podiatrists I have consulted with have mentioned frequently that taping an injured 5th or pinky toe to the 4th toe is not enough. It is better to include the middle toe as well for more support. So the middle toe is supporting both the 4th and 5th toes and the 4th toe has help for better healing of the pinky toe. It's a synergistic approach.

Staying on the growth curve

God has put everything in place so the church in Christ has a tremendous if not immeasurable capacity for synergy in the body. He is able to do exceeding abundantly more than we ask or think, according to the power that is at work within us (Eph. 3:20). The body must grow up into Christ who is the head (Eph. 1:22-23, 4:16). All the joints and limbs must work in a coordinated effort. Maturation of the body requires synergy. Synergy can only be achieved when there is unity (Eph. 4:13). When the whole church is working together (and I believe that it is) we can do far more than any one of us can do by ourselves.

What does "synergy" look like?

For just as the body is one and has many members, and all the members of the body, though many are one body, so it is with Christ (I Cor. 12:12). We are many, and all of us are different, but are unified in the same goal to work together. What does this look like in form, function, and practice on a day-to-day basis? What actions or behaviors represent examples of synergy in the body that leads to growth, development, and maturing into the fullness of Christ?

First in a series of reports on men we support

Men We Support: Steven Matthews

Steven Matthews has been working with the Tidewater church of Christ in Chesapeake, Virginia, since December 2016. Prior to moving to Virginia, Steven spent 5 ½ years preaching in Ohio – 4 years at the Haynes Street church of Christ in Dayton, OH, and 1 ½ years at the Englewood church of Christ in Englewood, OH. During that time in Ohio, in addition to preaching, Steven also worked for Cox Media Group for 13 ½ years as a reporter. He spent most of his journalism career covering sports, but also reported on education, city government, and breaking news. Steven stepped away from his journalism career in December 2016 to pursue preaching the gospel on a full-time basis. Besides preaching two sermons each Sunday, he also teaches a weekly adult class, a weekly teen class, a monthly men's class, and other Bible studies and writings.

With the largest Naval Station in the world located in our area, most of the Tidewater congregation is made up of either active duty or retired military (primarily Navy, but also Army and Marines). Due to the transient nature of the congregation, that poses a couple of major challenges – we typically lose one or two families per year because they receive orders elsewhere, while also gaining a new family or two that moves in. Additionally, because of the lack of stability, it has been difficult to maintain scriptural organization; we have been without elders since February 2018. We are prayerful that Tidewater can be scripturally organized again very soon.

Steven and his wife Nicole were married in 2002, and they have two daughters, Alexis and Autumn. It brought great joy to Steven when he had the opportunity to baptize his oldest daughter, Alexis, in September 2020. The Matthews reside in Chesapeake, and they enjoy spending time with their church family and homeschool friends, going to the beach, and hanging out with their dog, Rayne.

