

Daily View

“But exhort one another every day, as long as it is called ‘today’” Hebrews 3:13

May 19, 2021

Updates, News & Notes

The Latest on Masks

If you're confused about California's mask policy, join the club. The CDC recently said that the current science dictates that vaccinated people do not need to wear a face covering in most settings. You may have also heard that Costco (among other stores) has changed their mask policy in line with the CDC guidelines. But you may have missed the line that says, *“except in states that still have mask mandates.”*

California has not changed their mask policy but last week Governor Newsom said that on June 15, the world will look “a lot like the world we entered into before the pandemic. We're not wearing face coverings. We're not restricted in any way, shape or form from doing the old things that we used to do, save for huge, large-scale indoor convention events...” So, let's be patient. June 15th is less than a month away and we've made it this far.

Sunday Morning Classes

The elders have decided to resume Sunday morning classes beginning on May 30th. It will be identical to the Wednesday night set up — an adult class in the auditorium and children's classes. All of the teachers of the Wednesday night classes agreed to teach on Sunday mornings. The summer quarter begins on July 4th, so we'll need teachers for the children's classes beginning then; we will start recruiting for that very soon (let us know if you'd like to teach). We should be able to return to our normal, pre-Covid classroom assignments next quarter.

Tuesday Morning Class

We have paused the Tuesday morning class for the summer. We will resume in the late summer/fall.

Notes on the Young Peoples' Class (5 PM on Sundays)

Over the years, we have studied many topics and texts in this class — from grace to gratitude, faith to forgiveness, and many others. This is a stellar group of young people; their comments are mature and insightful. It's a joy to teach this class. Last Sunday night, we began a discussion of “moral maturity.” Our key passage is *Hebrews 5:13-14*,

for everyone who lives on milk is unskilled in the word of righteousness, since he is a child. But solid food is for the mature, for those who have their powers of discernment trained by constant practice to distinguish good from evil.

The aim of this study is to review how we determine what is good and what is evil, even when dealing with so-called “gray areas.” This past Sunday, when asked *“what is the first step in determining whether a contemplated action is right or wrong?”* they immediately answered, “if the Bible specifically says an action is right or wrong.” That's a good answer but we then discussed the other steps that are involved. We looked at the “works of the flesh” in Galatians 5:19-21 and pointed out that some of the terms need defining. An example is the term “sorcery” (Gal. 5:20). The Greek word, *pharmakeia* (from *pharmakeuō*, “to administer drugs”), literally means “the drug-related practice of ancient magical-arts.” It probably extends to any kind of occult activity, such as witchcraft, and perhaps even the use of drugs to achieve a kind of “magical euphoria.”

So, even finding terms in the Bible that specify right and wrong takes some work because the terms must be defined. But there are other considerations. Not all sinful activities are explicitly called out. For example, pornography is not specifically named, although the term “sexual immorality” is a translation of the Greek word, *porneia*. You can see the connection there. Also, as one young man pointed out, even positive terms like “purity” need to be explained.

Even when an action is not technically wrong, it may be still be wrong if it (a) violates your conscience, (b) leads a new or weak believer astray or (c) demonstrates a lack of maturity. On that last point: do you really think a mature Christian — one who is to be “transformed” (Romans 12:2) and conformed to the the image of Christ (Romans 8:29) — would even *think* of experimenting with drugs, just to get “high,” even if the drug is technically not illegal?

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