

# View

*"...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 - Classes

**Deuteronomy: Auditorium**  
**Ruth: Room 13/14**

#### 10:30 - Assembly

Speaking today: David Posey

#### 2 PM Class

**Room 13/14 Minor Prophets**

#### 5 PM (building)

**Bible Study: Gospel Preaching in the Early Church**

#### 5 PM: Weekly Young Adult Class

**5PM @ the Posey's**

#### Tuesday, 10 AM

**Ephesians: "Rich Kids"**

#### Wednesday, 7 PM

**Deuteronomy: Auditorium**

**Ruth: Room 13/14**

#### Singing at the Folsom Care Center

3rd Sunday each month at 3:15 PM (see Grant Mulligan)

#### Men's Saturday Morning Meeting

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

## Information

### 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.

### Online

You can find copies of class material and archives of previous editions of the View and listen to sermons online at [www.folsom.com](http://www.folsom.com). Find us on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/folsomchurch>.

### View & Junior View

Be sure to pick up a copy of the View and Junior View; both are sent out weekly, plus there are some hard copies printed on Sundays.

But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law.

Gal 5:22 - 23

# What You Say

Bubba Garner

Christians are “called out” of the world (1 Pet. 2:9). That doesn’t mean we never have associations or dealings with other people, for then we would have to “go out of the world” (1 Cor. 5:10). Rather, we shine our lights in the dark places so that people can see the way to God, in Whom there is no darkness at all. In so doing, those in the world also see the difference in God’s people, in whom there ought to be no worldliness at all.

This distinction should be noticeable in several areas of our lives: from the priorities we set to the decisions we make to the type of clothes we wear to the kinds of places we won’t go. But if we’re not careful, we allow our boundaries of separation to be determined more by what is socially acceptable or politically correct than what is right in the sight of God. Especially is this the case with the language we choose to use.

The reason our words are so important in defining who we are and Who we represent is because we live in an age of constant communication. We’re always talking. Whether it’s on the phone, emailing, texting, tweeting, or even, perish the thought, face to face! There’s hardly ever a time when we’re not saying something. So we must be all the more diligent to say our words carefully, whether they come out of our mouths or off the tips of our fingers. Either way, they proceed from the heart.

A common reminder is “It’s not just what you said; it’s how you said it.” Well in today’s world, we need to be careful what we say no matter how we say it.

**Just because you abbreviate something doesn’t mean you’ve changed its meaning.** We’ve gone from euphemistic ways of saying, “Oh my God!” to clever ways of shortening it: OMG! But it’s still using the name of the Lord in a flippant, irreverent manner. The principle behind the third commandment given to the Israelites on Mt. Sinai (Ex. 20:7) is just as true among spiritual Israel today. If God’s own people don’t even respect His name, why should the world show any regard to His word?

**Just because you don’t speak it out loud doesn’t mean it’s not heard.** Some things are easier said behind a computer screen or from a keypad. That doesn’t mean they should always be said. We wouldn’t retell a joke with questionable humor in a circle of people but we’ll hit the forward button when it comes to our Inbox. We wouldn’t flirt in public or say suggestive things to someone who is married but we’ll send them inappropriate text messages because we think no one else is listening. If the “eyes of the Lord are in every place” (Prov. 15:3), doesn’t that suggest the

same thing about His ears? Jesus assured us that we would be held accountable for “every careless word” (Matt. 12:36). Perhaps we should take better care of what we’re communicating, no matter how we’re saying it.

**Just because you find it funny doesn’t mean the Lord is laughing.** We love to be entertained. But when we allow society to set the standard for what is acceptable, it won’t be long until we start saying what we see. Paul set the bar extremely high when He wrote by inspiration, “let no unwholesome word proceed from your mouth” (Eph. 4:29). The word unwholesome is literally rotten and means “having no value.” What value or wholesome quality is found in such graphic phrases like, “That sucks”? They may get a laugh, but Whose approval is most important? And who in the world is being shown the value of our vocation?

On the night of Jesus’ trials, Peter, afraid that he too might be arrested, denied any association with Him and His followers. Some of the bystanders approached Peter and said, “Surely you too are one of them; for even the way you talk gives you away” (Matt. 26:73). They most likely were referring to his Galilean accent, but the application is unescapable. Would people who don’t know you assume that you walk with Jesus just by the way you talk? If not, then your speech betrays you.

Watch your language. No matter how you say it.

## Social Relationships in a Local Congregation

by Larry Rouse

The Lord’s design for His people is that they be “knit together in love” (Col 2:2). “If one member suffers, all the members suffer with it; or if one member is honored, all the members rejoice with it” (1 Cor 12:26). We cannot serve God and be separate from people, but rather we are called to serve others. The power of love was such a firm purpose of our Lord that He described this characteristic, above all others, as the identifying mark of His people. “A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another; as I have loved you, that you also love one another. By this all will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another” (John 13:34-35).

Only the gospel has the power to bring Jew and Gentile, slave and freeman, the rich and the poor into the same local congregation and make that group a close-knit, loving family (Gal 3:28). When men are humbled and see the gospel as their only identity, then educational differences, racial differences and any other man

-made distinctions will be laid aside as rubbish—they view their brethren not just as equals, but as better than themselves. It is in this spirit that service to others becomes a privilege! “Let nothing be done through selfish ambition or conceit, but in lowliness of mind let each esteem others better than himself. Let each of you look out not only for his own interests, but also for the interests of others” (Phil 2:3-4).

### **The Ideal versus the Real**

Have you been a member of a church that abounded in love for each other? There have been times in my life where the congregation that I attended was approaching this spirit of service and love. I have also learned that it is a great challenge to find and maintain that spirit. There are so many pitfalls and temptations that can easily turn a church from a place of edification to a place of discouragement. Consider some common problems that we face in working with our brethren.

### **On the Outside Looking In**

It is crucial that every member understands that he truly belongs and is cared for. When a Christian believes that he is an outsider among the brethren he assembles with, he becomes vulnerable to many temptations. It is easy in that situation to give into jealousy, bitterness or to be overwhelmed by guilt (2 Cor 2:7-11). Good people can become careless and fail to see the needs around them, especially when they are satisfied with the associations they have.

### **Certain Visitors Not Welcome!**

A few years ago I was working with a couple that showed great interest in the gospel. They started attending services where I preached and also began a home Bible study with me. It was not very long until they privately began referring to the church as “the clique.” This concerned me, since I had a good relationship with them. At the end of one service I decided to step back and observe the interaction of others with this couple. At the dismissal of services, I watched as this couple waited for some time near the back of the auditorium at the place where everyone would exit. My heart ached as I observed how on that day very few spoke to them, while most Christians were rushing to visit with the ones they always talked to after services. My brethren, while not realizing or meaning to, communicated very clearly that this couple was not welcome.

### **The Haves and the Have-Nots**

The divide between those who are “rich in this world’s goods” and those who are not can provide a great challenge to a local group. It is far easier to associate only with those who have your tastes and can do the things that you do. It also is very easy to look down upon those who have less and even harden your heart toward them. “But whoever has this world’s goods,

and sees his brother in need, and shuts up his heart from him, how does the love of God abide in him?” (1 John 3:17).

I have seen churches where groups of couples go on trips to ski resorts, cruises and other expensive trips. It is not wrong to do this, nor should one stop this because others cannot afford it. However, it is important to make every effort to do things that will also allow you to associate with those Christians who have less than you! If you exclusively associate with the rich, then you do not have the heart of our Lord (Mt 11:5).

### **Attitudes from Parents to Children**

Unfortunately children too can display a cruel tendency to exclude and even punish those who are different. Christian parents must remain alert for these attitudes, challenge them and correct them. What a great lesson for parents to teach their children—giving to “unlovable” people the love that they need. It is in the home that we teach our children to include others that are “difficult” in our activities because that is exactly what our Lord wants us to do! “For if you love those who love you, what reward have you? Do not even the tax collectors do the same?” (Mt 5:46).

Sadly, I have also seen where a mother became bitter towards another couple or even towards a child, and in both spoken and in unspoken actions encouraged their children to snub and exclude other children. It is a far greater hurt for a parent to consistently see their child excluded from group plans than if that same action was taken towards them as adults. It becomes very difficult for a parent to instill faith in their child when the actions of others are so contrary to the gospel of Christ. When this scenario occurs and is not corrected, that congregation will likely lose an entire generation of young people.

### **Putting a Wet Blanket over the Assembly**

When problems arise in a local church in the relationships between Christians, it is crucial that the leadership address these issues with haste. When these problems are ignored, they will only grow until the assemblies of the church become stressful and strained, and in some cases contrary to the encouragement it ought to be.

The early church successfully faced challenges like this. The neglect of the Greek widows in the church at Jerusalem was quickly recognized and corrected (Acts 6:1-7). The apostles were quick to point out occasions of neglect and preference by strongly rebuking and correcting these attitudes (Phil 4:2-3; 1 Cor 11:20-22).

Let love reign in the place you assemble! Why not make plans now to include a brother that is not in your normal group of associates? You will find that the more you give to and involve others, the greater the blessing you will receive.