

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 five 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: Authority

Room 13/14: Parenting

10:30 AM – Assembly

Speaking today: David Posey

2 PM Class at the Building

Room 13/14

Minor Prophets

5 PM (building)

Fruit of the Spirit

Weekly Young Adults Class

Tonight at the Posey's: 5 PM

Tuesday, 10 AM

This class will resume in the fall

Wednesday, 7 PM

Auditorium: Authority

Room 13/14: Parenting

Men's Saturday Morning Meeting

7 AM, second Saturday 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.folsomchurch.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 and available in the foyer.

Disclaimer

The opinions, interpretations and views that appear in the View are those of the author alone and do not necessarily represent the view of the elders or other members of the church of Christ at Folsom.

Pure & Undeclared Religion is This

BY TYLER WADE

This last week, in our study on authority, our topic was “The Church that Jesus Built.” Since this is a class on authority, we looked at the meaning of the word *ekklesia*, explored the difference between the universal church and local church (modern words we use to define scriptural concepts), then focused in on how the local church is organized and its work. Pretty classic “church stuff,” but unfortunately it barely touched on a huge topic. The purpose of this article is to answer a couple of questions that came up and to provoke further thought and discussion about the true purpose(s) of the church that Jesus built. Specifically, this article is focused on works of service Christians are called to do.

The “Local” Church

Like any organization that is formed for a specific purpose, the local church, ideally under the auspices of qualified elders, has specific work to do, and is mostly focused on the use of the treasury. The local church is to proclaim the gospel, build up the members, and help needy Christians. There are plenty of examples of this work happening in churches in the New Testament (Acts 13:1-3; 2 Cor 11:8-9; Acts 20:28; Eph 4:12; 1 Peter 5:1-2; Col 3:16; Acts 4:32-37, 6:1-6, 11:27-30; Rom 5:25-26, 12:13; 1 Cor 16:1-2). Some limitations existed for local churches in what or how they did their work. For example, in every case of money being taken from the church treasury for benevolence, the recipients were believers in need. 1 Timothy 5:9-16 says that the church shouldn’t be burdened with caring for widows under certain circumstances.

This bothers some people. They would like the local church to be much more involved in earthly concerns than the Bible allows. Certainly, it is tempting to make the local church’s work more than it is, if only because it is so easy. There are already people here, they’re organized, they’re giving money. Why not sponsor a soup kitchen, an orphanage, a fun run, or a basketball team? The answer is almost too simple: because that’s not the job of the local church, nor should it be. Most disagreement about the work of the church comes down to how we should use the treasury. Please consider: Would an investor in a tech company be upset if that company started investing in hot dog stands? How about a donor to a non-profit hospital when they authorize multi-billion-dollar incentive plans for their CEO? Those actions would be considered unacceptable by the investors or donors. Why do some expect the local church to do things it is not chartered by God to do? For those who are frustrated by this, good news...

The “Universal” Church

Faithful Christians anywhere and everywhere are expected to do good works (James 2). Matthew 25 gives clear instruction that any time we feed the hungry, welcome a stranger, clothe the naked, or visit the sick

or the prisoner, we are doing it to Jesus. James 1 tells us that pure and undeclared religion includes caring for orphans and widows in their affliction.

Let’s get real: When was the last time you fed the hungry, welcomed a stranger, clothed the naked, visited the sick or the prisoner, or cared for widows or orphans? If you haven’t, Jesus says you are a worthless servant (Matt 25:30).

Do we need special instructions from the elders or help from the deacons to do these things? No, and even though it might be easier to do it through the existing church framework, easy is not the goal. Service to the Lord is the goal. Sacrifice is the goal. Sacrifice because it’s through sacrifice that we become closer to Jesus — it’s a way for us to share in His suffering and is part of our spiritual worship (Rom 8:16-17, 12:1-8ff; Heb 13:13-16, 1 Pet 4:10-11).

When we work and struggle and strive together, we become more unified. We can see this fellowship and unity amongst believers throughout scripture (Eph 4, for example), and we know it intuitively as humans made in God’s image.

I believe part of God’s design is to keep us from institutionalizing service to where it becomes the work of a few (paid or unpaid). The more you separate the servant from the one being served, the more impersonal service becomes, and unity suffers. We are all to be actively engaged in the work if we are to be pleasing to God.

Application: What does all this mean?

1. The Folsom church of Christ (a “local” church) fulfills its mission by supporting the preaching of the gospel here and around the world, building up its members through teaching and equipping believers for works of ministry, and helping needy Christians here and in other places as the need arises. It does this from its own treasury and through the collective efforts of its local members.

2. The body of Christ (the “universal” church) fulfills its mission (in part) by feeding the hungry, welcoming strangers, clothing the naked, visiting the sick or imprisoned, and caring for widows and orphans. This work is part of the universal work of being a Christian and is separate from the local church in how it’s done. And it’s done all the time. Here are a few recent notable examples I know about, without naming any names:

- Many Christian families are adopting children into their home that no one else will care for.
- Just last weekend, a bunch of Christians came together and raised \$60,000 to help fund adoptions by two of these families.
- A woman organized a group to serve victims of the Camp Fire.

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- A man helped a family get out of homelessness.
- A man gave hours and hours and hours of his time to help others sell their home and move into a retirement home suited to their needs.
- Christians pooled resources to buy a widow a reliable vehicle; other have simply given vehicles to families in need.
- Christians get together and sing at the Folsom Care Center on the third Sunday of every month to visit with and encourage the sick and elderly.
- Christians give of their time and money to fund a summer camp for young people to bond with one another and to learn about the Bible.
- Christians went to Jamaica to serve the people there physically and spiritually
- Christians send their money to preachers directly to spread the gospel in other places.
- As I write this, two members of our local church are at a park handing out Bibles to anybody who will take them.

And these are only of a few of the ones I know about. There are hundreds of other acts of charity that are private or go unnoticed. If you haven't noticed, you haven't been looking hard enough. Simple Christians simply serving others. Still, there are so many more opportunities all around. There's a prison right down the street from us. There are people living in care homes who are sick and lonely. We have elderly neighbors who can use some help around the house or yard. There are children in broken homes or stuck in the "system."

A Final, Personal Note

The parents of the Folsom church work really, really hard to be able to afford to live in the best-rated place in this state so that our kids can grow up in safe neighborhoods, go to good schools, and become good citizens with good jobs.

It would be a shame if, in working so hard to raise our children up into self-actualized, productive adults, they were to turn around and reject the faith because they never saw us actually put it to work.

We are failing our young people if we don't show them what pure and undefiled religion looks like. They're looking for it because they can read it in the Bible. They're not dummies, so when they read it in the Bible, but they don't see it in action in our lives, they see us as hypocrites, and our faith as a sham.

What can you do, fellow servant, for Christ's kingdom? Jesus said to them, "My food is to do the will of him who sent me and to accomplish his work. Do you not say, 'There are yet four months, then comes the harvest'? Look, I tell you, lift up your eyes, and see that the fields are white for harvest."

John 4:34-35

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THE CULTURE COLUMN

Mother's Day

I wrote my article for Mother's Day last week. I'm preaching about it this week. *dp*

Headlines this Week

"Homosexuality Sends People to Hell" Says Highest-Paid Rugby Player

Israel "Izzy" Folau is Australia's highest-paid rugby player and number one hope for Australia winning the upcoming World Cup in September. However, a comment about homosexuality Folau posted to his social media accounts could cost the talented rugby star and devout Christian his career. What did Izzy say? He basically quoted I Corinthians 6:9-10. He said, "hell awaits you" for those who fail to repent instead of "will not inherit the kingdom of God."

Porn or vital life lessons? California approves controversial new sex education approach

The California Department of Education approved controversial changes to the state's health and sex education framework on Wednesday, but removed five resources and books that some organizations called "sexually explicit," including a book that explains sex to students as young as kindergarten.

Chris Hughes, one of the cofounders of Facebook, is now calling for the tech giant to be broken up.

(Alternative scenario: Wait 50 years, then the number of dead Facebook users will outnumber the living, according to recent data projections.) The anti-Zuck backlash marches on, but the reaction to Facebook's "lack of accountability" is related more to anxieties about privacy than a concern about capitalism gone awry. This same privacy anxiety is what's behind the public's growing concern over facial recognition technologies.

Major retailers changing their tobacco rules in an attempt to curb the youth vaping epidemic.

By September 1, Walmart, Walgreens, and Rite Aid will all have policies in place that require anyone purchasing tobacco products to be 21 or older, with ID. Dessert- and fruit-flavored nicotine products, which appear to appeal especially to teen vapers, will also be discontinued. This is the result of pressure from parenting groups as well as the FDA, whose warnings about vaping have grown increasingly dire in recent months.