

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

Ecclesiastes: "Finding That Elusive Balance in Life"

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.

California Dreamin'

BY DAVID POSEY

John Seymour was a good friend and my roommate for awhile, just before I got drafted into the Army in 1968. He hailed from New Jersey, which he called a "suburb of Philadelphia." He told me that he and all his friends in New Jersey dreamed of living in California. He told me that whenever the Mamas and Papas song "California Dreamin'" came on the radio they would literally cry, wishing they could move here. For John, living in California was a dream come true.

Unfortunately, as in so many other places in America, politicians have done their best to mess up a good thing. I'm a native Californian and I'm defensive when people criticize our state; but it's getting more difficult to defend.

Not many years ago, California was the land of opportunity, a leader in so many positive ways. For over a century, from 1949 to the 1980s, people flocked here. I was one of the very few kids in school who was actually born here. That was even more true in the church. Most members when I was a kid were from Texas, Oklahoma and Tennessee. A few were from New York.

People came to California for the good jobs and the great weather. It was widely reported that the economy of California would rank 6th in the world, if it was a country instead of a state. And where else can you drive two hours west to the Pacific Ocean or an hour east and hike or ski in the Sierra? Geographically, California is a remarkable place.

However... and this "however" hurts... the more populated cities in California — Los Angeles, the San Francisco Bay Area, San Diego, Sacramento — have been ruled by increasingly progressive, socially liberal politicians. This has a huge impact on our students in schools across the state, and that impact has been magnified with a recent decision by the State Board of Education. Just within the last ten days or so, they passed some "guidelines" for sex education that include some disturbing "recommendations." There are lots of sources on this development, but here's how one website is reporting it:

The California Department of Education approved controversial sex education guidelines for public school teachers Wednesday that encourage classroom discussions about gender identity and LGBT relationships, but removed five resources and books, including one that explains sex to students as young as kindergarten. LGBT advocates praised the new recommendations for giving attention to a community that is often left out of sex education policies. But some parents and conservative groups assailed the more than 700-page document as an assault on parental rights,

claiming it exposes children to ideas about sexuality and gender that should be taught at home.

The state of "health education" in public schools has already taken things far beyond what we would have imagined 30 years ago. A 6th grade girl entering middle school had to fill out a form that included a question about whether she was "gay." Since she had no idea what that meant, she had to ask her mother, who, of course, was shocked that a 12 year old had to deal with that. Now, the educators want to teach Kindergartners about "gender choices."

While these most recent guidelines are not mandatory, they provide an example of incrementalism, a favored tactic of secular progressives. How many of us, after the state recognized same-sex unions as "marriage," said to ourselves, "wait; what just happened?" We ignored the genesis of the homosexual movement and... "the chickens have come home..."

Marshall McLuhan asked, "If the temperature of the bath rises one degree every ten minutes, how will the bather know when to scream?" Let's not be naive; the leaders in these movements are extremely patient. In the beginning, they were satisfied with small changes that many of us did not even notice, let alone protest.

But, here we are. So, what do we do?

Some people choose to homeschool their children. Some choose to leave the state and find greener pastures. I'm a staunch supporter of parents doing whatever they think is best for their children. But I wonder if these decisions simply delay the inevitable. I've met some children who were sheltered that are now grown and seem unable to deal with societal pressures.

Jesus told his disciples, "In the world you will have tribulation. But take heart; I have overcome the world" (John 16:33). Jesus and the apostles lived during a time when government was more corrupt than anything we can imagine and when every kind of immorality was common (see Romans 1:18-32; I Corinthians 5:1ff; 6:9-10; Galatians 5:19-21; Revelation 2:19-23). Jesus never told us to escape the culture but, instead, to provide a counter-balance to it. He didn't tell us to retreat from the battlefield or stack our arms; he and his apostles told us to engage it, although with a twist. The secular forces in our society are formidable, but not invincible. Paul said that we have the stronger weapons; we just need to use them:

For though we walk in the flesh, we are not waging war according to the flesh. For the weapons of our warfare are not of the flesh but have divine power to destroy strongholds. We destroy arguments and every lofty opinion raised against the knowledge of God, and take every thought captive to obey Christ...

II Corinthians 10:4-5

THE CULTURE COLUMN

Graduating Seniors Take Note

Vice President Mike Pence had a sobering message Saturday as he delivered a commencement address at Liberty University in Lynchburg, Va. Pence warned graduating seniors of the Christian university that they needed to prepare for persecution from critics he described as “the secular left.”

“Some of the loudest voices for tolerance today have little tolerance for traditional Christian beliefs,” the vice president warned, according to the Washington Times. “So as you go about your daily life, just be ready.”

From Culture Translator

YOLO App

What it is: A brand new, third-party app that works with Snapchat to allow users to anonymously respond to other users’ questions.

Why it’s huge: Skyrocketing to the number 1 free app on the iOS App Store almost overnight, YOLO once again proves teens’ desires to have space to share thoughts anonymously. It’s yet to be seen if it will ultimately be banned like its predecessors (e.g. Sarahah, TBH, etc.) for facilitating bullying and hate speech or simply die because teens move on to something cooler, but for now, ask teens if they’ve used the app or want to. Ask them how they know where the line between anonymity and bullying (or anonymity and gossip) is. Do they think the anonymity is worth the risk of being hurt or getting negative responses?

Does Tech Change Our Emotions?

What it is: In their new book *Bored Lonely Angry Stupid*, cultural historian Susan J. Matt and computer scientist Luke Fernandez go back in time to analyze how our perceptions of self, boredom, and loneliness have been impacted by technology.

Why it’s eye-opening: Their research shows that “emotions don’t just hold steady and get expressed through new devices. Devices transform them—teach us

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new habits, nurture new expectations, and model new behaviors, too.” For example, they discovered that the word “boredom” didn’t exist until the mid-19th century and that our ancestors *expected* times with nothing to do, so they weren’t thrown off when they came—unlike today when we *expect* to be entertained, validated, and surrounded by community at all times. Their book is worth discussing with students. How do they think their expectations have been shaped by technology, both for good and bad? How do they view boredom? Alone time? Why do they think they see them that way?

Movie: The Last Summer

What it is: Netflix’s newest entry into the coming-of-age, teen romcom category is...*lame*.

Why it lacks substance: Graduating from high school, going off to college, and figuring out one’s future is simultaneously exhilarating and daunting, exciting and overwhelming, full of promise and paralyzing. *The Last Summer* could have offered an honest glimpse into how teenagers deal with incredible change and surging emotions during this time, but instead it seems to prey on these surging

“one teen described [‘The Last Summer’] as ‘the worst representation of teenagers I’ve ever seen’”

emotions to get teens to watch their lackluster, confusing, trying-way-too-hard film. Even though one teen described it as “the worst representation of teenagers I’ve ever seen,” others may yet be lured in by its attractive actors, beautiful visuals, and representation of a mysterious-yet-highly-anticipated phase of growing up. If that’s your teen but you don’t want them to be exposed to the vapid normalization of drugs, alcohol, and sex, consider offering them a timeless, coming-of-age film that’s honest, real, and asks important questions like *Dead Poets Society* or *Rebel Without a Cause*.

“Chum Boxes”

[*Chumbox is a sort of gross fishing reference, chum being the tiny fish that fishers use as bait to catch larger fish.*]

You know those weird ads that run at the bottom of every single article we link to in this newsletter? The ones that promise “one weird trick for aging,” and inform you of the “celebrities you didn’t know had died”? Those ads are called “chum boxes” in the media industry, and the most infamous (and prevailing) one is about a gut doctor who is *begging* people not to eat an unnamed vegetable. This particular ad trope raises so many questions, like, what is a gut doctor? Followed by, what is this poisonous vegetable?! Obviously, the teens are memeing it. While clicking on these chum boxes pretty much never results in any enriching discovery of information, it’s worth knowing more about how this particular industry funds its reporting and monetizes traffic. Apparently, the gut doctor is a gold mine. (And probably, the veggie he hates is corn.)