

*"...having the eyes of your heart enlightened..." Ephesians 1:18*

**"Have salt in yourselves. And be at peace with each other."**

*Mark 9:50*

## 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: How Jesus Teaches Us (The Gospel of Mark)**

**3 Rooms: 13/14 – 15/16 – 17 – Ladies' Teacher Training**

**10:30 AM – Assembly**

Speaking today: David Posey

**A Peace Initiative**

**2 PM Class at the Building**

Room 13/14

**Minor Prophets**

**5 PM (building)**

**Fruit of the Spirit**

**Weekly Young Adults Class**

**NO CLASS TONIGHT**

**Tuesday AM Class**

This class will resume on August 27th

**Wednesday, 7 PM**

**Auditorium: How Jesus Teaches Us (The Gospel of Mark)**

**3 Rooms: 13/14 – 15/16 – 17 – Ladies' Teacher Training**

**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](http://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.*

## Thoughts on Mass Shootings

On December 14th, 2012, our grandson witnessed, much too up close and personal, the massacre of several of his first-grade classmates and the entire office staff at Sandy Hook Elementary School. In all, 20 children and 6 adults were killed.

So this discussion about mass shootings is personal.

And “infuriating” is not too strong a word for how I feel when these incidents are immediately politicized, even before people have time to grieve. Of course, the bandwagon topic of choice is gun control. But the truth is that “gun control” (as proposed) would not have prevented any of these mass shootings any more than gun control has reduced murders in Chicago — which has the strictest gun control laws in the nation. Political figures are simply trying to score political points and doing it right after the event is particularly disgusting.

More importantly, the grandstanding on gun control moves the conversation away from the real problems in our society that lead to these tragedies. In a recent poll, 73% of Americans (77% of Republicans, 74% of Democrats) blame the mental health system for mass shootings in the U.S.; “gun control” has less support.

It’s true that mental health is an important issue, but cries of “our mental health system is broken; we must do something about it!” do nothing. “We must do something about it” is just another platitude piled on top of the pyramid of platitudes.

I’m no prophet, nor the son of a prophet but I can predict with absolute certainty that nothing will be done about the “mental health system,” whatever that is, anytime soon. I can also predict that, after the next mass shooting, people will be blaming “systems” and politicians and guns and still ignore the deeper issues that have brought us to this place.

What are those “deeper issues”? It’s hard to pinpoint any one thing, of course, but reasonable people are beginning to realize that the explanation for most of these shootings is not based in a particular *political* ideology. Ironically, the two most recent shootings were apparently carried out by two men who were on opposite sides of the political spectrum, which should have shut the mouths of all politicians trying to score points; but, of course, it didn’t.

What is going on? Some who are analyzing this phenomenon are pointing to several factors that all seem to revolve around the problem of “isolation.” Considering that most of these mass shootings end in either “suicide

by police” or the shooter taking his own life, research into the reasons for suicide is being examined by those who want to know the real reason for the rise of these massacres.

The answer may be found in some research that dates back to 1897 when French sociologist Émile Durkheim noted that many people who killed themselves were young, and that the prevalence of such suicides was linked to their level of social integration. In other words, “when a person felt little sense of connection or belonging, he could be led to question the value of his existence and end his life.”

See that? “...felt little sense of connection or belonging...” was a problem in the 19th century. But it also describes the impact of spending most of one’s time online, which often leads to this “meaningless life.”

Terry Newman, in an article on *Quillette* (“[The Deadly Boredom of A Meaningless Life](#)”) says,

...real-time empathy generation often requires some degree of eye contact—which is hard to generate through online interaction. Moreover, it is shockingly easy to get worked up into a rage when you are interacting with an online avatar of a person you have never met. Simply put, the more we physically see each other, the less likely we are to be awful to each other.

“...when a person felt little sense of connection or belonging, he could be led to question the value of his existence and end his life.”

Much of what she (and Émile Durkheim) says makes even more sense from the standpoint of our church-oriented, God-focused lifestyle. As believers in God, we are tethered to God’s word and that has several “meaningful” effects:

- (1) We have a moral center that lies outside ourselves. If we are faithful, we know we are not permitted to adjust the moral scale to our taste and preferences.
- (2) We are aware that God is not only our redeemer but also our judge, to whom we will give an account (Hebrews 4:13).
- (3) Therefore, our lives have meaning and purpose — to glorify God and help each other get to heaven.
- (4) We are not only connected to God, we are connected to each other as the body of Christ, the church (I Cor. 12:12-14).

So, as faithful members of the church, we enjoy frequent eye-to-eye contact with others of “like precious faith” (II Peter 1:1). That connection is crucial in a day when most interactions seem to take place in cyberspace.

While very few of us will ever get completely offline, the research suggests that if we can put our kids in frequent circulation with real people (like at assemblies, classes and healthy social events), that we have a good shot at helping them keep their heads on straight.

dp

# Church Discipline

Since church discipline is, fortunately, relatively rare here at Folsom, some may not be fully aware of what the Bible says about it. It's important that we all know the biblical basis for it. One thing that we want to emphasize is that it is our love for the sinner that motivates us. And, as you can imagine, it is the single most difficult act that we do in our role as shepherds of the church here.

In the past, I witnessed many cases of churches "withdrawing" from a man or woman, for various reasons. Sometimes, it seemed arbitrary, but I didn't know all the facts that led to the action. That's the way it is; no one, except the elders and the disciplined individual, knows all the facts in the case. It has to be that way, of course. But you can be assured that every effort is made to restore the sinner "in a spirit of gentleness" (Galatians 6:1-2) before this public action is taken. Every man or woman that has been disciplined in this church knows this is true. The elders always error on the side of patience and giving benefit of the doubt. When an announcement is made, it is because we believe, with all our hearts, that we have no choice; we were faced with obeying God's commands on this matter or ignoring them.

Our hope, in every case, is that the person who is subject to discipline will repent and be restored. While that is not the *only* purpose of the action, it is a crucial one. We feel that person has put his soul in danger. The person knows that he or she can always come back to the Lord and the church. When that happens, we strongly implore the church to receive him completely, without stigma (please read II Corinthians 2:5-11).

The chart below covers the categories of actions that trigger discipline and the response that every member of the local church is *supposed* to observe if and when one is disciplined. "Having nothing to do with him" means we do not treat him or her *as if nothing happened*— there should be no purely social interaction with that person. Our conversations should be limited to "admonishing him as a brother," not engaging in small talk. Our aim is for him or her is to realize that there is a consequence for the action that put them into this situation in the first place. Each of us will have to answer for our response. These commands are as clear as any in the Bible and ignoring them puts our soul in danger. Apparently, the whole Corinthian church did that at one time and Paul said they were "arrogant" (I Corinthians 5:2) because they put themselves above God's word. That's not going to happen here.

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## The Purpose of Discipline

(1) To restore the sinner. **I Corinthians 5:5; Galatians 6:1**

(2) To maintain/restore the purity of the local church.

**I Corinthians 5:6-8**

(3) To demonstrate that the church takes holy and righteous living seriously. **I Peter 1:15-16; 2:9-12**

The Factious Person	The False Teacher	The Irresponsible Person	The Unresponsive Sinner	The Immoral Person
"watch out," "avoid," "warn," "having nothing more to do with him" Romans 16:17 Titus 3:10-11	"do not receive...do not give him a greeting" II John 9f.	"keep away from," "take note," "have nothing to do with him," "admonish as a brother." II Th. 3:6-15	"let him be to you like a Gentile and tax collector" Matthew 18:15-18	"remove," "do not associate with..." 1 Cor. 5