

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

New Quarter Begins Next Sunday (September 1st)

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)

10:30 AM – Assembly

Speaking today: Zach McGinnis

Bible 101

"Back to Basics"

2 PM Class at the Building

Room 13/14

Minor Prophets

5 PM (building)

Fruit of the Spirit

Weekly Young Adults Class

Class at Posey's: 5 PM

Tuesday AM Class

10 AM at the Building

Wednesday, 7 PM

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

Men's Saturday Morning Meeting

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

Information

Website & Online Presence

Visit our website at www.folsomchurch.com for updates and material on current and past classes, and recorded sermons and classes. You will also find a directory of churches on page one. If you are a member of the church here at Folsom, see one of the deacons or elders to inquire about access to the password - protected members section. Find us on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/folsomchurch>

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.

View & Junior View

Be sure to pick up a copy of the View and Junior View; both are sent out weekly to our member list and hard copies are printed on Sundays and available in the foyer.

“Situation Ethics”

BY DAVID POSEY

Sound Christians and churches adhere tenaciously to core principles that are taught in the Bible. There are many principles that guide us in our spiritual life and many of those are focused on getting us to heaven when our lives come to an end. But there are also many core principles that affect us in the here and now: principles that affect our business life, our family life and our moral choices.

When those biblical principles are abandoned or ignored, churches and nations crumble like a stale cookie. Welcome to 21st century America. Isaiah said it about Israel in his generation in c. 700 BC:

Woe to those who call evil good
and good evil,
who put darkness for light
and light for darkness,
who put bitter for sweet
and sweet for bitter!

What evil is being called “good” these days? There was a time when the very mention of abortion was shocking. Now, many view this as an absolute right and are incredibly bold in stating their views. An actress, Alyssa Milano, recently spoke of her two abortions and said how much “sweeter” her life is because of those.

Then there is the “transgender” stuff. In an article entitled, “How My Trans Daughter Taught Me Grace,” a mother is “transgendering” her *four-year-old* boy by changing his name and gender on his birth certificate. She claims this four year old voiced his preference to be a girl instead of a boy [*insert several eye roll emojis here*].

Further evidence of evil being called “good”: Drag queens reading books to little children as young as 3 years old, in libraries in various places. Here’s how one report put it (from a site sympathetic to the practice):

...the Los Angeles drag performer Xochi Mochi (also known as Jorge Alcantar) read to children at the Michelle Obama Neighborhood Library in Long Beach, California, on 14 October. The reading was part of a series called Drag Queen Story Hour, which is run by the writer Michelle Tea and the literary and arts non-profit Radar Productions.

Of course, many hailed this as a wonderful thing:

“What an amazing way to teach individuality, empathy, and acceptance!” posted Alexis Hernandez, a first-grade teacher at the Maurice Sendak Community public school in Brooklyn, New York, to the Drag Queen Story Hour’s (DQSH) website.

“*Woe to those who call evil good and good evil...*”

And there are real consequences. For example, *Newsweek* reported that the Houston Public Library admitted that one of its “Drag Queen Storytime” storytellers was a registered child sex offender. The library said in a statement it “failed to complete a background check as required...”

Any semblance of a moral center has evaporated from the minds and hearts of many of our contemporaries. What happened?

Let’s go back to 1966, when Joseph Fletcher, an Episcopal priest, who became an atheist, wrote a book entitled “Situation Ethics: The New Morality.” According to Ligonier Ministries:

Fletcher rejected the traditional law-based approach to Christian ethics in favor of making circumstances of each particular situation the norm by which right and wrong are decided. [He] said that the principle that has to be followed in every ethical decision is to do what love demands in the particular situation. But Fletcher did not define what ‘love demands’ according to any fixed, transcendent norm; rather, the situation itself determines the most loving response. So, for example, adultery could be the most loving thing in one circumstance while love could demand chastity in another.

Fletcher’s ideas began to infect mainline Protestant churches and U.S. society in general, almost immediately after the publication of his book. It was instrumental in the advance of the “sexual revolution” that took place in the 1960s.

Today, anything goes. You can define any action as a “moral” or “ethical” action, if you can justify it by the circumstance you’re in. It’s disgusting in the extreme; I suppose even Jeffrey Epstein did that in his long practice of having sex with underage girls.

Paul tells us in Romans 12:9 to “abhor what is evil and cling to what is good.” We don’t have to guess what is evil

and what is good — the Bible tells us. In fact, Paul had already defined evil in Romans 1. He says idolatry (putting anything before or in place of God) is evil. Homosexuality, he says, is evil. He goes on:

They were filled with all manner of unrighteousness, evil, covetousness, malice. They are full of envy, murder, strife, deceit, maliciousness. They are gossips, slanderers, haters of God, insolent, haughty, boastful, inventors of evil, disobedient to parents, foolish, faithless, heartless, ruthless. Though they know God’s righteous decree that those who practice such things deserve to die, they not only do them but give approval to those who practice them. *Romans 1:29-32*.

Those who think we should look the other way and tolerate these things in the name of “love,” need to think again. Paul says that even those who give their approval of any of these sins is equally guilty.

We are to abhor (hate, loathe, despise, detest) these things. We are to cling (hold fast, “stick”) to what is good. We don’t have to guess what *those* qualities are, either. Just look at the opposite of the list above or consult any of the many lists of characteristics in the New Testament (e.g., the fruit of the Spirit in Galatians 5:23-24). We are not only to do these things, but we are to *cling* to them, putting the practice of these things at the center of our lives.

“Any semblance of a moral center has evaporated from the minds and hearts of many of our contemporaries. What happened?”

Walking Away or Into Faith?

What it is: Joining Joshua Harris and Derek Webb, Hillsong's Marty Sampson (credited with writing some of today's most popular worship songs) said he's "genuinely losing my faith."

Why it's maybe a good next step: In a now deleted Instagram post, Sampson laments his issues with Christianity, saying "Nobody talks about" the tension between science and revelation, "contradictions" in the Bible, or struggling with the belief that a loving God would send billions of people to Hell. But he's wrong, many Christians do talk about these issues. Sampson isn't walking away from Christianity, he's walking away from a vacuous version of pop cultural evangelicalism hawked by entertainment-based, consumer driven churches more concerned with an emotional high than spiritual formation. If, like Sampson, your teens have similar doubts or struggles we have one simple phrase for them: "Welcome to the conversation"! Seriously! The people of God have been contending with these issues for thousands of years. So, encourage their spiritual journey, not by simply deconstructing child-like faith but by reconstructing an authentic, growing, and evolving spirituality.

Apps/Websites

1. User-friendly blogging site Tumblr has long been a favorite of teens, especially Taylor Swift fans. But the platform has had a rough go the past few years, being sold to Yahoo and then to Verizon. Neither company seemed to know what to do with the site, which is why it might be a good thing that the owner of WordPress, Automattic, has made a deal to purchase it. Several months ago, Tumblr decided to ban all pornographic and sexually graphic content from the site, and usage tanked. Tumblr's new owner says this ban will stay in place for now, which means for now the site is still safer (in theory) for teens to visit than many other platforms.
2. The company formerly known as Weight Watchers drew ire this week when it announced the launch of a free app for weight loss for kids as young as 8. The app is called Kurbo, and it's a retooled version of an existing app that WW bought last year. The company is working hard to rebrand in what some observers call our "diet-averse culture." But launching an app that trains kids to worry about their weight might not have been the best move, as thousands of consumers made #wakeupweightwatchers a trending topic. Whether

WW will change the app or dig in their heels remains a mystery as of now.

Film/TV/Streaming

Amazon Prime's original series *The Boys* is starting to trend with younger viewers. The show is a comic book adaptation that plays with good, evil, and power dichotomies. It's also decidedly NSFW, with simulated

sex scenes and sexual assault. It's understandable why teens would think it's a show for them, as *The Boys* trades in many of the same superhero tropes as Marvel and DC movie franchises. But in *The Boys*, the superheroes aren't heroes at all, but narcissistic celebrities abusing their power in darkly comic

ways... there's too much mature* content for the high school set to make sense of.

Online Scams

Gen Z is savvy with a *lot* of things, and we assumed that spotting scams would be one of them. But people who grew up as digital natives might be falling for identity theft and online thievery as much as (or more than) their older counterparts. The FTC reports that young adults aged 20-29 are still susceptible to scamming, and 40% reported that they lost money on these shady transactions. Don't assume your child's digital understanding can make up for what they lack in life experience, and educate them on best practices for keeping their identity out of the hands of hackers.

Cultural Translator, August 16, 2019

*When we read "mature content" we need to think beyond what the writers mean and put that into a biblical context. "Mature," in the media world usually means "sinful" in the biblical world. The label, "mature," is appended to TV, movies, music and video games that include some amount of bad language, sexual immorality and/or graphic violence. But that's not actually "mature" in any language. "Mature" is defined as "sensible," "responsible," "wise" — not just "old enough to see ungodly stuff."

Consider Hebrews 5:14:

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 use of "mature" in this text suggests that we would avoid all of the content that is labeled "mature" in media because our trained powers of discernment would determine that it is evil. And we "*abhor* evil," right?

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