

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

### **John 13:34-35**

**"A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another: just as I have loved you, you also are to love one another. By this all people will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another."**

## 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: The Gospel**

**Room 13/14: Jesus in the Gospel of John**

**Room 17 – Young Adults Class (18-29)**

**10:30 AM – Assembly**

**Speaking today: David Posey**

**2 PM Class at the Building**

**Hebrews**

**Room 13/14**

**5 PM (building)**

**Proverbs**

**Weekly Young Adults Class**

**Class at Posey's: 5 PM**

**Tuesday Class: 10 AM at the Building**

**I Thessalonians 5**

**Wednesday, 7 PM**

**Auditorium: The Gospel**

**13/14: Jesus in the Gospel of John**

**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](http://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.

# Identifying Self-Contradictory Statements

BY DAVID POSEY

Learn to spot an argument that destroys itself.

Christians believe in truth; truth, by definition, is “absolute.” The idea that there is personal truth defies reality; truth is that which corresponds to reality.

We believe in *the* truth, as spoken by Jesus and revealed in God’s word: “Sanctify them in the truth; your word is truth” (John 17:17). But the idea that there is truth is under attack. In

this article, we’ll explore why critics find it difficult to make the argument against truth because when one wages war

against the idea of truth their arguments are almost always self-contradictory (some call these “suicidal arguments”).

These are statements that cannot live up to their own standards and thus, the minute one utters them, they are false. Philosophers refer to such arguments as self-refuting or self-referentially incoherent. Here are a few obvious (even “silly”) examples:

- “All bachelors love their wives.”
- “My brother is an only child.”
- “That place is so crowded, no one goes there anymore” or “when you come to a fork in the road, take it” (Yogi Berra).
- “I’ve had amnesia for as long as I can remember.”
- “Always go to other people’s funerals, or they won’t go to yours.”
- “You’re in rare form, as usual.”

Once you learn to identify these verbal gaffes, you’ll find it much easier to deal with many of the objections to Christianity — or at least to the concept of truth. Here are some common claims we hear today:

- “There is no truth.” (So, is *that* a true statement?)
- “We can’t know truth.” (If true, then you cannot know that that statement is true.)
- “All truth is relative.” (If true, then that truth claim must also be relative.)
- “All truth claims are attempts to oppress others.” (Is that a truth claim you’re using to oppress others?)
- “There are no absolutes.”s (Are you absolutely sure?)
- “No one can know any truth about religion.” (How did you come to know *that* truth about religion?)
- “You can’t know anything for sure.” (Is this something you know, for sure?)
- “We shouldn’t push anyone’s values on others.” (Isn’t this statement pushing your values on others?)
- “I don’t believe anything unless it can be proven scientifically.” (What scientific experiment taught you that truth?)

When a statement fails to satisfy its own criteria of validity, it is self-refuting; it can’t possibly be true. Greg Koukl, author of the book *Tactics*, says,

Whenever someone says, “You shouldn’t force your morality on me,” always ask, “Why not?” Usually the response is going to be an example of her forcing her morality on you.

To make sense out of the objection, she’ll have to state a moral rule while denying any moral rules exist. Such attempts reduce to, “You’re wrong for saying people are wrong,” or more bluntly, “You shouldn’t judge, you narrow-minded bigot.”

I was having a friendly conversation with a non-Christian when the subject of homosexuality came up. He immediately took offense at my “judgmental” view.

“You see, that’s the problem with Christians,” he said, “they’re always judging other people’s morals.” He was

momentarily struck dumb when I pointed out that this was an interesting moral judgment of his own. Backpedaling, he regrouped and tried a different angle.

“Okay,” he conceded after some chin-scratching. “I guess it’s all right to judge, as long as you don’t try to force your morality on others.” He thought this would solve his problem. He was wrong.

“Is that your morality?” I asked. He nodded. “Then why are you forcing it on me?” He was back to square one.

After a couple more false starts he threw up his hands in despair. “It’s not fair. I can’t find a way to say it that will work.” He thought I was playing word tricks on him.

I had to chuckle. “You can’t find a way because there is no way. Your statement is contradictory; it can’t be true.”

Moral relativists always get caught in this bind. It’s as if he said, “There are no moral rules; but here’s one.”

C.S. Lewis, in *Mere Christianity*, observed,

Whenever you find a man who says he does not believe in a real Right and Wrong, you will find the same man going back on this a moment later. He may break his promise to you, but if you try breaking one to him he will be complaining “It’s not fair” before you can say Jack Robinson. A nation may say treaties do not matter; but then, next minute, they spoil their case by saying that the particular treaty they want to break was an unfair one. But if ...there is no such thing as Right and Wrong...what is the difference between a fair treaty and an unfair one?

It’s common today for critics of Christianity to assert that there is *no objective truth*. But listen carefully to them as they try to prove their case. No matter what they say, they will have to admit that their words are self-contradictory. He will claim that knowledge is a certain way. Then, he will claim he knows it to be so, even as he argues that all such claims are false. His argument is defeated by his own claims.

Koukl makes this point:

[Some] limit the area of knowledge to those things that can be empirically tested. To them, all knowledge is based on observation. But is this a truth they have observed? Further, have they observed *all* knowledge in order to know what all knowledge is like?

Alvin Plantinga of the University of Notre Dame calls this suicidal tendency the “philosophical tar baby.” If you get close enough to use the idea on someone else, he says, you’re likely to get stuck fast to it yourself.

“Always ask the question, ‘Does that position carry with it the seeds of its own destruction?’ Don’t feel like you have to do all the work refuting a bad argument. When you discover a view is self-refuting, ask a question that exploits the problem. Then let him sink his own ship.”

*Adapted from an article by Greg Koukl at [str.org](http://str.org)*

“If you were of the world, the world would love you as its own; but because you are not of the world, but I chose you out of the world, therefore the world hates you.”

*John 15:19*

### **Never Thought I'd See the Day Dept.**

A recent poll conducted by the [Victims of Communism Memorial Foundation](#) (VOC) found that Communism is viewed favorably by more than one-in-three Millennials (36%). My first reaction was not a negative feeling toward Millennials; my first reaction was, “what have history teachers been teaching in schools they’ve attended?” How can you not have taught about the ugly history of Marxism and Socialism and the millions upon millions who have been murdered by communists? How could they not know how desperately people in East Germany wanted the Berlin Wall to come down? If the schools aren’t doing this, we should be warning our kids about the dangers of communism and socialism. **dp**

### **Screen Time Trends**

**What it is:** Common Sense Media’s newest media survey of 8- to 18-year-olds found that 8- to 12-year-olds watch screen media an average of 4 hours and 44 minutes per day (an 8-minute increase over 2015), whereas teens watch an average of 7 hours and 22 minutes per day (a 52-minute increase).

**What it means for you:** Despite growing concerns about the negative effects of screen time, young people’s use is still increasing (dare we say it reflects a similar trend in older generations?). The survey also found that YouTube is still the most-used app (not surprising) and that the number of videos they watch online has doubled (notable). None of these are earth-shattering revelations, but they serve as a reminder of the need to pay attention. There are trends that apply to the masses (e.g. TikTok or *Fortnite*), but there are now diverse niche trends as well. It’s up to us to know each child and what impacts them individually.

### **Apps**

**Discord**, a free communication app that started as a way for gamers to talk to one another, has grown to encompass so much more than the gaming community. Teens now create servers (i.e. text and voice chat rooms) as a place to connect over interests—including dating and hooking up. Discord claims they shut down any dating servers aimed at an audience below the age of 18, but there are still tons of functioning channels being used for this purpose. If your teen uses Discord, ask them what they like about it and keep the line of conversation about the ways they’re using it open.

Since 2011, **I’m Shmacked** has built a business from selling the fantasy of what college life could be like by posting videos of extreme college parties. Demand for the videos has been huge (over 1 million people follow

@imshmacked on Instagram, though the account appears to have been taken down recently), and many teens admit that they decide what college to attend in part based on how fun a campus looks in the company’s videos. The company sells kids on the same premise as films like *Animal House* and *Old School*—that college will be a nonstop party without any consequences. Make sure you’re having conversations about what college is for and what an average day will consist of (not partying!)

### **Longer School Day?**

Presidential candidate Kamala Harris has introduced a bill to prolong the school day, and the reaction on social media was probably not what she was hoping for. Harris’s bill aims to address a decades-long problem: The school day isn’t as long as the workday for people employed in a traditional, 9-5 office. In her proposal, a pilot program would fund 500 schools to stay open from 8a to 6p and see how it impacted the surrounding communities. People on both sides of the political aisle really seem to hate this idea, stating that students wouldn’t be served any better or learn more in this system. At the very least, this might be a political issue both your teen and you will agree on!

### **News from the Cancel Culture\***

In “Tales from the Teenage Cancel Culture,” *The New York Times* takes an illuminating look into what it’s like to be “cancelled” by your peers. Social ostracization in middle and high school is certainly nothing new, but something about the name “cancelled” makes it seem more ominous—something permanent that’s more difficult to recover from. High schoolers report being “cancelled” for everything from using a racial slur to expressing mildly contrarian political views. It’s very possible that some of the Christian values that you’ve instilled in your teen could get them “cancelled” by their peer group...or that these values could cause their peers to encourage your kids to “cancel” you.

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\***Cancel Culture** is when a large mob of people come together to relentlessly attack a certain person over an accusation of some kind, which later on is usually proven false. Generally the accusation starts on Twitter, the original gets questioned then deleted but the mob has already started attacking and the person who made the accusation can enjoy a boost in followers. It’s not just Twitter and other social media sites. The main stream media majors in this these days (remember Brett Kavanaugh?).