

"...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 six 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

Romans 14 – The Forgotten Key to Unity

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

No classes: Singing

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.

Questions to ask yourself at the end of the Lord's Day today:

1. Is there change I need to apply?
2. Is there sin I need to confess?
3. Is there truth I need to embrace?
4. Is there doctrine I need to study?
5. Is there a prayer I need to pray?

“Brevity is the Soul of Wit”

Polonius:

My liege, and madam, to expostulate
What majesty should be, what duty is,
What day is day, night night, and time is time,
Were nothing but to waste night, day, and time;
Therefore, since brevity is the soul of wit,
And tediousness the limbs and outward flourishes,
I will be brief. Your noble son is mad. . . .

Hamlet Act II, Scene 2

Polonius had a high regard for his ability to speak but he was neither brief nor witty, as the quote above demonstrates. “Brevity is the soul of wit” has become the go-to phrase for reminding writers and speakers that we should be brief, concise and that our speech should be as short as feasible.

You’re probably saying to yourself, “Wait. This is a preacher writing this right now!?”

I admit that this topic stings a little. For those who read these articles, I’m putting myself behind the eight ball, so to speak. I like to think of it as challenging myself to do better — for my sermons and writing to be as brief, concise and short as possible, while still conveying the message.

I often fail but I know better. I like to say, “if someone asks you the time, don’t build them a watch,” but I’ve built a lot of watches in my time. Jesus reminds us to be careful when we speak. In Matthew 12:36-37, he says,

“I tell you, on the day of judgment people will give account for every careless word they speak, for by your words you will be justified, and by your words you will be condemned.”

The more words we speak or write, the more we are exposing ourselves to the sin of speaking carelessly. This warning should make us all stop and think.

As a kid, I remember hearing some *really* long prayers in services so it was surprising when I learned that the “Lord’s prayer” is only 58 words in the Greek. And, perhaps, the most famous and beloved speech of all time is the Gettysburg Address, coming in at 272 words (this article is already 357 words).

But perhaps the most important takeaway is that our relationships would improve dramatically if we talked less...and listened more.

That is all.

What is the Key to Faith Transmission?

Relationships are incredibly important. University of Southern California sociology professor Vern Bengtson has commissioned a massive study on religious faith transmission since 1970. It involves four-generation families of more than 3,500 grandparents, parents, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren. Regardless of the particular religion, he has found that *a warm relationship with the parents, and in particular the father, is the single most important factor in faith transmission*. He also has discovered that healthy relationships with grandparents and the church are important for faith transmission.

Basic Faith

A religious leader recently said, “Where the Bible mentions same-sex sexual behavior at all, it clearly condemns

it. I freely grant that. *The issue is precisely whether the biblical judgment is correct*” (my emphasis, *dp*).

This attitude has always been at the root of problems in churches. If we don’t truly believe the Bible is the actual word of God, then we are likely to believe anything. The quote above implies that we are permitted to stand in judgment of what the Bible clearly says. But the writer of Hebrews would not agree. In 4:12-13, he says,

For the word of God is living and active, sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing to the division of soul and of spirit, of joints and of marrow, and discerning the thoughts and intentions of the heart. And no creature is hidden from his sight, but all are naked and exposed to the eyes of him to whom we must give account.

And Jesus adds,

The one who rejects me and does not receive my words has a judge; the word that I have spoken will judge him on the last day. *John 12:48*

Basic faith is to recognize that God’s word, found in the 66 books bound up in what we call the “Bible,” is absolutely true (corresponds with reality). If we add anything at all — tradition, creeds, opinions — to the Bible, then we can never be sure. If you have a clock set to the atomic clock in Boulder, CO, you know what time it is; if you have two or more that are not set to that clock, you’re never sure what time it is. The Bible is the “atomic clock” of spiritual thinking.

The Bible — as we have it — really *is* the word of God and we can trust it. Yes, there are textual issues to deal with and there are passages that seem to contradict other passages (most of those can be easily explained). And, like any other speech, written or oral, we must interpret the Bible and we may differ on some interpretations. But the question remains: *do I believe this is God’s word?* Everything hangs on the answer to that question.

If our answer is yes, the Bible *is* God’s word, then we know for sure that certain things are true beyond doubt. For example, among *many other* things, we know that:

- God created the world.
- God created man and woman, with free will.
- Sin entered the world through the exercise of free will and “all have sinned...” (Romans 3:23)
- God sent his Son, Jesus, into the world to save us from our sins by dying on the cross.
- That Jesus established the church and called it his “body.”
- Jesus came back to life three days after his death and ascended into heaven.
- Human beings are mortal; we will all die. Hebrews 9:27
- Time itself will come to an end and there will be a judgment.
- There is a heaven and there is a hell and every person who lives will be assigned eternally to one of those places.

There are some difficult passages in the Bible (see Peter’s comment on Paul’s writings in II Peter 3:15-16). But most of the Bible is clear to those who want to do God’s will (see John 7:17) and it will always be obscure to those who don’t.

— *dp*

“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

Quotes and Odds & Ends from Social Media, Etc.

Kanye West on Hollyweird: “Satan stole all the best producers. Satan stole all the best musicians. Satan stole all the best designers. Hollywood puts images and symbolism in movies and tv shows to indoctrinate your kids into lives of emptiness, service to self, and feeding the eye...”

Truth is Truth: Abraham Lincoln once asked an audience how many legs a dog has if you count the tail as a leg. When they answered “five,” Lincoln told them that the answer was four. *The fact that you called the tail a leg did not make it a leg.*

Pagan origins: I’ve heard preachers argue that the pagan origins of a holiday, like Christmas, forbids us from celebrating even the non-religious aspects of that holiday. I’ve been using Canon cameras for 25 years. But I found out recently that Canon was originally Kwanon, named after the Buddhist goddess of mercy. On the reasoning above, I should sell my camera. I’m not convinced.

What’s Wrong? Many of the same people who ruthlessly criticize Christianity seem bewildered that people are becoming less forgiving, less charitable, quicker to anger, more isolated and more vulnerable to immorality.

They haven’t put it together yet... II Timothy 3:1-4,

But understand this, that in the last days there will come times of difficulty. For people will be lovers of self, lovers of money, proud, arrogant, abusive, disobedient to their parents, ungrateful, unholy, heartless, unappeasable, slanderous, without self-control, brutal, not loving good, treacherous, reckless, swollen with conceit, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God...

dp

From Cultural Translator (11/22/2019)

Cohabitation

Earlier this month, Pew released a study inquiring into the changing marriage and cohabitation statuses of younger people. The trend of recent years continues, with fewer young people getting married than cohabiting. Only 14% of adults now say it is unacceptable for unmarried people to live together under any circumstances, which certainly reflects what is seen as an evolving norm. But the study also shows some encouraging points: Married people still report being more secure and satisfied in their relationships than those who simply live together. Also of note, two-thirds of people in unmarried, cohabiting relationships said that money was the biggest reason they weren’t married yet. Try to take the temperature on your child’s thoughts about marriage

by asking if there are couples they admire and, if so, what they most admire about them.

Religion in the Workplace

A new study provides insight into how Gen Z views the practice of religion in the workplace, and the results are a bit of a surprise. While the popular “discourse” on religion is as polarizing as it has ever been, Americans still mostly agree that religious freedom is incredibly important. What’s more, Gen Z is more open than Millennials and Gen X to the overt practice of religion in the workplace. This could be due to the younger generation’s intense desire for everyone to be “accommodated.” It’s an encouraging statistic that could open up a discussion with your teen about all of the ways they see religion being carried out and practiced in their everyday lives.

Esports

Some colleges are “betting big” that esports (electronic sports played through video games) are here to stay. These institutions are so enthusiastic about the potential of esports that they’re replacing their traditional sports programs with varsity esports instead. At least 128 colleges now offer programs for esports athletes, and scholarship packages similar to traditional sports are now being offered. But these programs are still not the norm, and scholarship offers are rare in a competitive field. Your child might feel that their scholarship hopes are riding on their ability to score well in certain games. If that’s the case, it could be what drives them to play their favorite video games more and more and more.

How to talk to teens

A high school senior named Zachary Maxwell has written a handy “[How to Talk to Teenagers](#)” guide. It might not be as helpful for difficult conversations with your child, but it could be helpful when speaking with your teens’ friends and meeting their peers.

According to the article, stressful questions about school, college applications, and what a teen might want to be when they grow up are not good starting places for conversations. In fact, bringing those things up from the outset is a recipe to shut down their desire to talk to you, and quickly. Instead, Maxwell recommends finding something in common—a movie, a sports team, a hobby—and letting them show you how much they know about it. Fun hypotheticals are also a good way to start a real conversation and allow for authentic, give-and-take exchange.

It can be challenging, but try to remember that talking to a teen is like talking to anyone else—the goal is to give the other person the respect of a listening ear and an open mind.