

“Sir, we wish to see Jesus.” — John 12:21

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: Judges

Room 13/14: Raising Faithful Kids

Room 17 – Young Adults Class (18-29)

10:30 AM Assembly

Speaking today: Scott Gardner

2 PM Class at the Building

James (Room 13/14)

5 PM (building)

Sermon On The Mount

Weekly Young Adults' Class

Class at Posey's: 5 PM

Tuesday 10 AM

The Fruit of the Spirit

Wednesday, 7 PM

Auditorium: Judges

Room 13/14: Raising Faithful Kids

Room 17 – Young Adults Class (18-29)

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>

Classes & Home Studies

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.

“We Are Perfect! Seriously?”

I hear that a lot of young people feel that those of us who are older are, basically, **perfect** — perfect in knowledge, in obedience and in love. We have, accordingly, “arrived” at that special level of maturity that we all long for and our confession of “our many sins” is just lip service for prayers and sermons.

And I completely (perfectly?) get why they think that. Just look at us. Just listen to us. We look good — *holy*, even! We say all the right things, hardly ever slip up — at least at the church building and in our Bible classes and group meetings. And when we comment or answer questions in Bible classes, we sound confident and self-assured rarely giving the impression that we entertain any doubt at all about things of a spiritual nature.

If we’ve left the impression, we need to apologize and come clean with our young people.

We — meaning all of us Boomers, and Gen Xers — are anything but perfect. We struggle with stuff just as much as young people do; it’s just different stuff.

A couple of months ago, in our Sunday night high school class, I was trying to get the kids to talk about some of the things they struggle with. One young lady raised her hand and said, “what do *you* struggle with?” Forget crickets, I was as silent as mouse in a deep cave. The question caught me by surprise. But it wasn’t because I don’t have my share of struggles; I do.

We may think that young people dismiss us or, at least, ignore us, but that’s wrong. Many of them view us as exemplars of what Jesus wants us to be. (It seems weird saying that, but I think it’s true). And, because we watch our words, as we should, they think we’ve got it all figured out.

Well, I would like to have a word with them. Not only are we not perfect, many of us feel less perfect than they are. I hear it a lot, from people in middle-age and beyond: “I just don’t feel I’m good enough.” And that’s not all bad. It’s better than feeling that you are good enough. It’s better than feeling like some young people think we feel — that’s we’ve arrived. No, we are struggling with how God views us, just like a young person does.

Before I go on, I need to say that there are and always have been members of the church, often older members, who act like they have made it to the top of the spiritual ladder. They give themselves away when they flare up when someone asks a question or makes a statement that challenges their long-held view of some issue. They also have a habit of blaming just about everything on young people.

But I hope there are no members of the church at Folsom who think that way. I think we all accept the fact that we are, in some respects, “messed up.” A. W. Tozer said something close to “I would rather go to church with messed up people who are passionately pursuing Christ than religious people who dislike messed up people.” I agree.

It should be true that mature, older Christians become more dependent on Jesus as they get older. But why? It’s because mature Christians are those who study the scriptures more and the more they immerse themselves into God’s word, the less “perfect” they feel. It is a rare day that I can read the Bible and feel even marginally good about myself when I finish. More often, the word does what Hebrews 4:12-13 says it does:

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.

Reading the word exposes my thoughts and intentions and some of them are not very noble or

holy. Any trace of “perfection” I feel vanishes like a dandelion in the wind. I learn — again — that I must lean on the grace of God or I’m lost.

We are all messed up, in one way or another (Romans 3:9-20, 23). The main difference between a Christian and a worldly person is that the Christian *knows* he or she is messed up while the worldly person is comparing himself to others and pronouncing himself “good.” When so-called Christians do that, they are denying the grace of Christ and they are lost.

Ironically, those who admit their sin are actually happier and less neurotic than those who don’t. That’s because the Christian knows where to go to get fixed — and they go there, again and again.

I’m speaking of the practice of confession of sin (and the determination to repent) that abides in the heart and mind of every Christian. In my estimation, I John 1:8-2:1 is the most comforting passage in the Bible (please read it and you’ll probably feel better).

One message we need to communicate to our kids, time and time again, is that Christians are not perfect, but they recognize and confess their imperfections. In a sense, they “keep on confessing” (I John 1:9) because they know sin is a 24/7 problem. If we can get that message across, I think we’ll do a lot to bridge the natural generational divide that exists in the church.

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“I would rather go to church with messed up people who are passionately pursuing Christ than religious people who dislike messed up people.” A. W. Tozer

What would things look like if Satan really took control of a church?

Over a half century ago, a preacher named Donald Grey Barnhouse offered his own scenario in his weekly sermon that was also broadcast nationwide on CBS radio. Barnhouse speculated that if Satan took over Philadelphia, all of the bars would be closed, pornography banished, and pristine streets would be filled with tidy pedestrians who smiled at each other. There would be no swearing. The children would say, “Yes, sir” and “No, ma’am,” and the churches would be full every Sunday ... *where Christ is not preached.*

— MICHAEL HORTON, *CHRISTLESS CHRISTIANITY*

We tend to think of “culture” as something “out there” that affects our thinking and the values of the society in which we live. While that’s true, the church also has a “culture.” That is, there are certain beliefs and attitudes that exist in a church that form the basis for its customary practices. We might say there’s a certain “vibe” in every church — and visitors tend to pick up on, usually right away.

Christie and I have attended a lot of churches in the U.S. We figure the people in those churches are solid in doctrine and we don’t doubt that they love the Lord. But sometimes the “vibe” (as I’m calling it) was missing.

What vibe, or culture, should we see in any church of Christ, no matter how small or large? To answer, we could read Revelation 2&3 about the seven churches of Asia. From there we learn that the culture of the church (the body of Christ) should be the culture of Christ: loving, alive and enthusiastic, doctrinally pure, full of joy, morally pure, steadfast, collectively humble and where Christ is preached and honored every week.

We could add more to that list, but can we say that those qualities define the culture here at the Folsom church of Christ? Is our vibe the vibe that Jesus wants us to radiate? We are constantly checking ourselves to make sure we are doing just that.

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New App

Botnet

What it is: Can a faux social media platform filled with bots “who are obsessed with you” offer us a safe place to be vulnerable and honest? Botnet, a new app that simulates the good parts of being famous, thinks it can (*language*).

Why it’s an interesting experiment: The app functions “basically like a diary. While the bots give you the impression of there being interaction, you’re actually just writing down your thoughts in a closed system that no one but yourself will see.” You can pay

\$1 to turn on the “dad joke” bots or the “troll” bots, but ultimately, the creator, Billy Chasen, wanted the app to be a happy place, so none of it reflects the reality of what happens to celebrities in the actual digital world. But maybe that’s ok. Chasen wonders if having “one place you can vent, you can be yourself” could be good. We wonder if it might help us interact with real social media in less attention-needy ways. What does your teen think about the concept?

Teen-Grandparent TikTok Accounts

Teens aren’t just using TikTok to bond with their Gen Z peers. One of the stronger trends gaining ground on the short-form video-sharing app involves grandparents. As the AARP-eligible set jokes on-camera about growing old and all that it entails, hundreds of thousands of TikTok-lovers have responded, interacting with this kind of content in droves. Teen/grandparent duo accounts are also extremely popular, as content featuring an older person using the newer technology always seems to strike a novel chord. If your teen has been egging their grandparents on to start a joint TikTok account, know that it’s not as unusual as it might seem.

This week in theaters

Disney Pixar’s animated feature *Onward* features the voice talent of Chris Pratt (*The Guardians of the Galaxy*) as well as Tom Holland (*Spider-Man: Homecoming*), with the two playing brothers in search of a spell that can bring their deceased father back for just one day. The premise is weird enough to begin with, and rumor has it that the film also features Disney’s first *openly LGBTQ character* in a supporting role.

Decline in Religious “Nones”

A few weeks ago, we linked to a study that showed that the trend toward young people becoming religious “nones” was slowing down. According to *Christianity Today*, there is good news and bad news about this data. In a comprehensive breakdown of Generation Z’s religious trends, writer Ryan Burge explains that as Gen Z ages out of the religious affiliations of their parents, it’s possible that they will self-declare as “nonreligious” at the same rates as the Millennial generation before them. The result, he predicts, will be a country with fewer loyal church attendees in evangelical Christian pews, but an increase in devotion amongst those who do choose to make evangelical Christianity their religious home. Remember that your teen is more than just a statistic, but keep the bigger conversation going about what a regular, healthy faith practice looks like for an adult.

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