

July 25, 2021

The Sunday View

"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 at the entrance. Thank You

**Vacation Bible School (VBS) begins tomorrow through Friday, 9:30-11 AM.
Registration at 9:20 AM**

Schedule

The Lord's Day
Bible Classes for All Ages

9:30 AM

Auditorium: Ephesians

David Posey

Assembly

10:30 AM

Livestream at 10:30 at <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCLemwy2IYxrL7ZUgTiZTVqA>

Speaking today: Scott Gardner

Young People's Class

5 PM Every Sunday

Contact David Posey for information at
(530) 558-5057

The middle school class is held once a month. Contact Dan Stegall for information at (818) 209-9810

Weekly Classes

Zoom Class: Mondays @ 7PM

The character of Moses

Contact Jack Horak @ jshorak98@gmail.com

Wednesday 7 PM @ Building

This week: Singing in the auditorium

Saturday Men's Breakfast

7 AM, second Saturday of the month
Contact Tyler Wade @ tyler@ppldev.com

Additional Classes

There are some home studies in progress. If you are interested in participating in any of them, please contact David Posey

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 on Wednesday night at 7 PM. 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.

Prayer Requests & News Items

Send to David Posey at dpaulposey@mac.com
or text at 530-558-5057

Is “Christian” an Adjective?

BY DAVID POSEY & “A WAYWARD SON”

The first entry in the dictionary on my Mac defines the word “Christian” as an adjective with examples like “Christian faith,” “Christian values,” “Christian music” ... etc. The second entry defines “Christian” as a noun — a person who is a believer in Christ. In the Bible, the term is never used as an adjective yet many of our brethren use it that way (I admit that I probably have, though I know better).

The term “Christian” (Greek, *Xristianós*) is used a total of three times in the New Testament, each time as a noun: “the disciples were first called Christians in Antioch” (Acts 11:26); “In a short time would you persuade me to be a Christian?” (Agrippa to Paul, Acts 26:28); “if anyone suffers as a Christian...” (1 Peter 4:16). The correct use of the term “Christian,” then, is as a noun describing someone who is a follower of Christ.

Like other biblical terms, “Christian” has been hijacked and misused in so many ways in modern American speech that it is fair to say that, in common parlance, it has all but lost its original meaning. The blog article below was written in 2008 by someone who calls himself, “Wayward Son” (that’s a good way to avoid criticism for the stuff you write; why didn’t I think of that?). Here’s the article:

Hmmm... something going through my head lately. The word “Christian” was not intended to be used as an adjective.

In Scripture, it is always a noun, referring to a person who follows Christ.

Now, forgive me if this offends your religious sensibilities — just being honest here — I have grown less and less comfortable using the word “Christian” to describe myself, although by Biblical standards I certainly am one. I love Jesus and attempt to follow Him with my life, and I’m not ashamed of Him. But the word “Christian” in our culture has become so loaded that people attach to it any of a number of stereotypes and misconceptions every time it is used. It isn’t that I am trying to avoid hostility by non-Christians; it’s just that I want them to be hostile toward me for the right reasons. (?) So when possible, I try to gravitate toward terms like “Christ-follower” or “disciple of Jesus”.

Anyhow... I think that this idea of using the word “Christian” as an adjective rather than a noun has served to complicate things even more. We use

“Christian” to describe a type of music, or a type of book, or (forgive me again) even a type of nation. But in the Jewish mindset (out of which most of the Scriptures were written), there is no differentiation between sacred and secular (or in our vernacular, Christian or non-Christian) when referring to these things. In the Jewish mindset, *everything* is sacred if God is in the center of your life. As such, everything is redeemable under Him. But we so categorize things using “Christian” as an adjective that we Christians start getting paranoid about what’s okay for us, and what’s not okay.

Here’s an example: someone says, “I only listen to *Christian* music.” I get that we aren’t to just fill our minds with garbage, but show me chapter and verse where we are supposed to use the Christian tag to identify something like music. What makes it Christian? Is it that a Christian is singing it? Or that the message has to be specifically talking about

Christ? Does that mean typical romantic love songs are not Christian? What if a Christian wrote the love song? Are Christians not allowed to be romantic?

Can you see how this way of thinking imprisons us — let alone alienates us from unbelievers? Do you see how we’ve made “non-Christian” a code for “unclean?”

I have no problem with a Biblical worldview flavoring and influencing books, music, movies etc., and I’m thankful for the influence it’s had on our nation. I believe it — and we — *should* influence our culture for good. But maybe we need to get back to what “Christian” really means. “Christian” is a noun; a Christian is a person who follows Christ. That’s it. Maybe if we’d get over using the word Christian to label everything we think is okay to touch, we’d be able to start clarifying again to the rest of the world who we really are, and Whom we are following after. And in the process... by taking the “Christian” label off our stuff and just *being* Christians, perhaps we’ll let God into a few places in our lives where we’ve been keeping Him out. ■

“Maybe if we’d get over using the word Christian to label everything we think is okay to touch, we’d be able to start clarifying again to the rest of the world who we really are, and Whom we are following after. And in the process... by taking the ‘Christian’ label off our stuff and just *being* Christians, perhaps we’ll let God into a few places in our lives where we’ve been keeping Him out.”

Culture's Bias toward Sexual Sin

BY DAVID POSEY

[“Culture” is a broad term and therefore difficult to apply to specifics. In this article, “culture” refers to what we are seeing in media which may or may not reflect a local reality. However, we are naive if we think that mass media doesn’t influence our view of things. And, if we’re exposed to the media more than to God’s word, it’s likely we’ll become influenced by media more than by God.]

One illustration of culture’s bias is to look at how so-called “Christian”* music is handled/labeled by the mainstream press. Here are two current examples:

(1) A father wrote a song, “*Modesty is Hottest*,” as a tongue-in-cheek attempt to urge his teenage daughter to dress modestly. The song went viral, hundreds shot it down, he got cancelled and the song all but disappeared. Discussing modesty is off-limits in our culture. (2) Meanwhile, this headline appeared in several articles online:

LGBTQ singer-songwriter ‘GameStops’ Christian music with No. 1 Christian album on iTunes.

The subhead reads: “‘Preacher’s Kid’ carries a parental advisory for explicit lyrics and at turns lacerates youth group lock-ins and short-term mission trips — staples of an evangelical Christian upbringing — while professing a complicated faith.”

This rise to the top for a gay singer claiming to be a Christian so animated the progressive press corps, that after two days in the top spot on iTunes, NBC, NPR and other admiring media types, rushed to interview her.

So what do we have here? A father writes a humorous song promoting modesty and gets cancelled almost immediately while an openly gay woman claiming to be a Christian writes some expletive-filled lyrics about “expressing her complicated faith” and she is affirmed.

That certain people in the press are so anxious to support the fiction of “gay Christianity” is even more obvious when you find that the stay at the top for Semler’s album was short-lived. As of today, “Preacher’s Kid” is not even in the top 40 on iTunes and, despite inferences to the contrary, she never displaced Lauren Daigle’s spot at the top on Billboard’s list of “gospel albums.” Daigle has occupied that spot with her album “Look Up Child” for 98 weeks *in a row*.

What does this say about our culture? It says that the irreligious, progressive media is looking desperately for LGBTQ “heroes” who they can publicize with the aim of demonstrating that you can be openly gay and still be a “Christian.” Even though there is no logical argument that Jesus supports a homosexual lifestyle, some want very much to pretend he does.

But why? It suggests that even among the most worldly among us, people can’t get Jesus out of their minds. But, instead of obeying him and following him, they remake him in their own image. They create a fictional Jesus that not only permits but promotes sexual immorality (in this case homosexuality) and a Jesus who is OK with using foul language to criticize those who don’t agree with them. Jesus asked, “who do people say that I am?” and the answer to that, for some people, is “*he is whoever I want him to be.*”

Christians are sometimes accused of singling out homosexuality as the “worst” sexual sin while ignoring mainstream immorality. They have a point. I’ve heard lots of

sermons on homosexuality in my life and there was usually no challenge issued to the crowd, but he got some audible “amens!”

We know that *all* sins, sexual and otherwise, if not confessed, will cause practitioners to be lost.

Or do you not know that the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived: neither the sexually immoral, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor men who practice homosexuality, nor thieves, nor the greedy, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor swindlers will inherit the kingdom of God.

— I Corinthians 6:9-10

This is an important point because I’ve met men who rail against homosexuals but then cheat on their wives or pilfer from their employers or get drunk on occasion. They will answer to God for those sins if they fail to confess them. But homosexuality is still a sin.

What makes *any* sin “worse” is when we excuse it or ignore it or even promote it, which results in others being led astray. That’s the difference in the LGBTQ movement. There is no socially-accepted movement to promote any of the sins on the list in I Corinthians 6 other than homosexuality. The greedy and the drunkard are not holding pride parades and appropriating God’s rainbow to promote their sin.

That’s a difference between Semler and, say, Cardi B. Cardi B recorded a number 1 song that promotes sexual immorality with lyrics that are, reportedly, nasty and vile in the extreme. Even the title of the song is an acronym that is so incredibly filthy that... well, they used an acronym instead of writing it out. The difference is that Cardi B is not claiming to be a Christian, as far as I know. Semler is. Neither of these women are acting righteously but only one is claiming God’s blessing is on her music. One line in one of Semler’s songs goes like this:

“Oh, what a terrible honor it’s been/
To learn that my blessings are things you call sins.”

Of course, the “blessings” she refers to is the “blessing” of being homosexual. Put any other item from I Corinthians 6 in its place — the “blessing” of being “an adulterer,” “greedy,” “a drunkard,” a “reviler”... If we are willing to replace scripture with our own view of things, we can justify anything. Bible students know that Jesus would not give his blessing to any of these lifestyles. Jesus, speaking of the love of money, said,

“You are those who justify yourselves before men, but God knows your hearts. For what is exalted among men is an abomination in the sight of God.” — Luke 16:15

Sexual sin, among others, is often “exalted” among men but it’s still an abomination in the sight of God.

Let me be clear — the point of this article is simple. It’s bigger than Semler’s success. The point is when something is said often enough, those who are not alert may be sucked in. A large segment of people in our world see nothing wrong with the lifestyle choice of homosexuality. They think it’s unkind and cruel to speak out against it. But, D. James Kennedy was right when he said, “tolerance is the last ‘virtue’ of a decadent society.” Some of what is virtuous in the eyes of man is an abomination to God. ■

*See article on page 1 about using “Christian” as an adjective).