

April 10, 2022

The View

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

Welcome Visitors

Our goal at the Folsom church of Christ is to do everything according to God’s word, including respecting its silence.

We are not a denomination, not part of anything larger than this local church; we have no earthly “headquarters.”

“The six elders oversee this church and, ultimately, we answer only to Christ. The comments you hear today are primarily for the benefit of 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 the preacher or 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 located near the entrance.
We do not solicit donations from visitors. See page 4 for more information.**

Schedule

The Lord’s Day

9:30 AM Bible Classes

Auditorium: Colossians

Room 15/16: Great Old Testament Texts

Room 12: Young Adults Class

10:30 AM: Assembly

Preaching Today: David Posey

Title: “Jesus on Faith and Doubt”

Livestream at 10:30 <https://tinyurl.com/5f2cbm3y>

Bible Class @ 2:00 PM in room 12 on Judges

Bible Class @ 5 PM — A Study of Prayer in the Psalms (Auditorium)

Young Peoples’ Class, 5 PM @ David & Christie Posey’s home

Middle school class: monthly (contact Dan Stegall at 818-209-9810)

There are several on-going Bible classes in the homes of members. Check with David Posey or one of the other elders if you would like to join one of those classes.

Wednesday 7 PM @ Building

Bible classes for all ages

Auditorium: Colossians

Room 15/16: Great Old Testament Texts

Room 12: Young Adults Class

Article on Page Two
Cultural Child Abuse

Cultural Child Abuse

DAVID POSEY

In the 1985 the song, “We Are the World,” the chorus went like this: “*we are the world, we are the children, we are the ones who make a brighter day.*” Children were the center of the universe back then. One could argue that the exalting of children went too far, along the lines of Isaiah 3:4, where the Lord says that “boys will be princes, and infants shall rule over them” — not a good thing. But the “culture” was to treat children as special and do everything possible to protect them. But now there is a disturbing shift in the way some people in our culture view children — “disturbing” is much too mild a word for it.

For example, the number of people in the world who treat the unborn — or even newly born — as items to be disposed of is growing. Then, believe it or not, there seems to be a growing tendency to ignore or even accept pedophilia. Finally, some want to turn boys into girls and girls into boys, sometimes at a very tender age. In some schools teachers are allowed to talk about sex and gender to children as young as 5 years old (the term “grooming” has become common to describe this; some states have found it necessary to pass “anti-grooming” laws).

Both Peter and Paul described the world as “crooked” or “twisted” (Greek, *skolios* — “*morally twisted*”; see Acts 2:40; Philippians 2:15) and nothing screams “twisted” as loudly as a generation that uses and abuses the most vulnerable people in a society.

Jesus View of Children

Jesus held children in high esteem. If we weren’t so used to hearing it, we would find what Jesus says in Matthew 18:1-6 absolutely amazing. “*Who is greatest in the kingdom of heaven?*” he asks. The apostles? Elders? Preachers? The most successful soul winners? Doctors of Theology? Not even close... it’s **children**.^{*} Kids are the greatest in the kingdom of heaven. In fact, Jesus tells the adults we must *become like children* if we want to participate in his kingdom.

In that succinct statement we learn that our lifetime goal is to put the emphasis on becoming more humble, not more accomplished, not more successful and certainly not more proud of ourselves. Humility is the prerequisite for becoming a disciple of Christ — the gospel can never pierce a proud heart.

My point here, however, is not about humility; it’s about children, these “little ones” that Jesus says are the greatest in his kingdom. I want to zoom in on v. 6, because it clarifies how God views those who treat children badly. Matthew 18:6 says, “*...whoever causes one of these little ones who believe in me to stumble, it would be better for him to have a great millstone fastened around his neck and to be drowned in the depth of the sea.*” The word “stumble” is the Greek word *skandalizō* - “to scandal-

ize” or to cause to fall into a trap. There are several ways that a society may scandalize children.

How Some in the Culture Abuse Children

There are four areas, briefly mentioned above, that scandalize children in our culture. First, there are men and women who use children for their own gratification. I’ll mention a few names and you’ll know what I mean: Roman Polanski (who still got to keep his Oscar); Jeffrey Epstein, and his “Island”; and newly convicted Ghislaine Maxwell, the British socialite who was found guilty last year of child sex trafficking and other related offenses. It has been widely reported that there were perhaps hundreds of well-known celebrities who were

involved in this sick scheme, but none have been arrested yet.

Another piece of evidence that children are being abused is in the controversy surrounding gender issues.

We are all aware of the Lia Thomas controversy, where a

“In Maryland, the senate will review a proposal to allow mothers to abort their baby a whole *four weeks* after it has left the womb. It’s called *The Pregnant Person’s Freedom Act of 2022.*”

man who identifies as a woman won a national NCAA swimming event. That’s bad enough but there a parents who are arranging for their own children to undergo sex change procedures. A year or so ago, there was the infamous case of a *7 year old boy* whose mother was arranging for him to undergo a gender change. The father sued to stop it, but lost in the lower court. I think the father was eventually given joint custody and was able to put an end to that nightmare.

Even Disney — the most famous purveyor of “family friendly” entertainment — has decided to push this agenda. In a company-wide Zoom call, a Disney exec said that they will no longer use the terms “boys and girls” or “ladies and gentlemen” and will plan to push for more storylines featuring LGBTQ+ main characters in the company’s entertainment offerings. And, they have adopted a benefits program to assist employees and their minor children with “gender affirmation procedures.”

This has become so common that a law had to be passed in Florida to prevent transgender and sexual orientation courses from being taught in K-3rd grade. Some teachers are not happy about this. One video that went viral features a male 3rd grade teacher who said, almost in tears: “I’m sad that I can’t talk to my children about my boating trip with my partner.” What gall to call students *his* children! Counting colleges, I attended about 20 different schools in my life, and, thankfully, I never learned anything about the sex life of my teachers and got along just fine.

Continued on page 3

^{*} Greek: *paidion* implies a *younger* child, perhaps 7 years old or younger. “A child in training.”

Back to the point, the notion that a person can change his or her gender is impossible — and ungodly. In the world God created, there are only two sexes: man and woman — in Hebrew it's *ish* (man) and *ish-sba* (wo-man). See Genesis 2:23. Jesus was clear that it was that way from the beginning (Matthew 19:4) and nothing has changed.

As evil as all of that is, this last item under “cultural child abuse” is the worst. It is the intentional extinction of a child in the womb. It's called “abortion,” but it is such a horrific procedure that it's typically described under euphemisms like “reproductive rights,” “a woman's right to choose” and, oddly, “reproductive *health* care.” Why don't they call it what it is? It's because technology has allowed us to prove, scientifically, that a child is a “person” at conception, not just a “thing.” So abortion is a homicide, by definition.

Right now, nine states allow abortion *right up to birth*. The states are: Alaska, Colorado, Illinois, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New Mexico, New York, Oregon and Vermont, along with Washington, D.C. (Note: California is *not* on the list, at least not yet). In Maryland, the senate will review a proposal to allow mothers to abort their baby a whole *four weeks* after it has left the womb. It's called *The Pregnant Person's Freedom Act of 2022*, sponsored by Senator William Smith (notice: “pregnant *persons*.”). And get this: *they are modifying the murder and manslaughter laws to accommodate this new law*.

We are officially a pagan nation, let no one convince you otherwise. Listen to this:

...babies which had been left to die by exposure by their pagan parents... An infant could be abandoned without penalty or social stigma for many reasons... Sometimes there were given to friends, but more often than not they were abandoned to the elements, and death resulted from hypoglycemia and hypothermia. Sometimes the infant was devoured by the dogs that scavenged public places. It was likely however, that the *expositi* were rescued from these fates and picked up by slavers.

A History of Children: A Socio-cultural Survey Across Millennia, by A.R. Colón with P.A. Colón, Greenwood Press, Westport, CT (2001), pp. 104-106.

That's describing Roman Empire law. Now read former governor of Virginia Ralph Northam's description of “post-birth abortion”:

If a mother is in labor, I can tell you exactly what would happen. The infant would be delivered. The infant would be kept com-

fortable. The infant would be resuscitated if that's what the mother and the family desired, and then a discussion would ensue between the physicians and the mother.

<https://tinyurl.com/yc74mt38>

In his statement, he mentions “deformities” which is a loaded term that includes down syndrome babies and other “inconvenient” disabilities.

Even more chilling is an article, written with bizarre detachment, by two authors who describe the killing of a living child after birth. Here is the abstract of that article:

Abortion is largely accepted even for reasons that do not have anything to do with the fetus' health. By showing that (1) both fetuses and newborns do not have the same moral status as actual persons, (2) the fact that both are potential persons is morally irrelevant and (3) adoption is not always in the best interest of actual people, the authors argue that what we call ‘after-birth abortion’ (killing a newborn) should be permissible in all the cases where abortion is, including cases where the newborn is not disabled.

Source: <https://jme.bmj.com/content/39/5/261>

The wickedness that is permeating society right now puts a greater burden on parents to teach their children well. The worst thing we can do is be silent about these issues; parents need to talk candidly to their kids about them and be very clear in pointing out the evil in age-appropriate terms.

For the rest of us, we cannot afford to simply gripe about “what the world is coming to.” We need to vote carefully, but beyond that, our role is to clearly present the alternative and point people to the light, to Christ. Paul said this, in *Philippians 2:14-16*,

Do all things without grumbling or disputing, that you may be blameless and innocent, children of God without blemish in the midst of a crooked and twisted generation, among whom you shine as lights in the world, holding fast to the word of life, so that in the day of Christ I may be proud that I did not run in vain or labor in vain.

Finally, someone said this and I agree:

“We've got way too many professing Christian leaders out there pretending that if you use a highly sophisticated method of Bible interpretation, you'll find that faithfully following Jesus actually looks an awful lot like floating along comfortably with the flow of the culture.”

Keep in mind what Jesus said: “what is exalted among men is an abomination in the sight of God” (Luke 16:15).

2022 Folsom Bible Boot Camp

What a Friend!!

April 29-May 1, 2022

Registration Link: <https://tinyurl.com/23995x79>