

April 24, 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 (Psalm 32)

Room 12: Young Adults Class

The Gospel of Mark.

Does the evidence prove that Jesus is the Christ?

All young adults and college age are invited.

10:30 AM: Assembly

Preaching Today: David Posey

Title: “Jesus on Songs & Singing”

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

2022 Folsom Bible Boot Camp

What a Friend!!

April 29-May 1, 2022

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

Culture

From Cultural Translator, April 22, 2022

Signing Off

What it is: A surprising number of teens are opting out of social media altogether, calling it out as a toxic and harmful habit.

Why it's trending: For the most part, teens are not oblivious to the impact that social media has on their mental health. Internal Instagram data revealed how the app can psychologically impact young girls (specifically, that Instagram makes teen girls feel worse about their bodies, and that [experts] blame the platform for anxiety, depression, and suicidal thoughts). But they do recognize how the apps make them feel during and after use. A story in the *New York Post** mostly interviewed students at Columbia University, some of whom expressed that deleting social media apps for months at a time or simply not logging in at all made them feel more productive. One interviewee called social media a “total waste of time,” while another indicated that the exhausting process of creating content was simply too depressing. The evidence for this trend is mainly anecdotal at this point, but it will be interesting to see if TikTok, Snapchat and the like see a major decrease in new users in the next year or two.

* Gen Z is social distancing — from social media. Zoomers are known for being glued to their phones, but some twenty-somethings are taking a stand against all-consuming apps such as TikTok and Instagram. Calling them “toxic” and “obsessive,” these young people say they’re regaining control of their time by stepping away from the scroll.

Poison Pills

What it is: Drug use among teens is down, statistically, but overdose deaths are up.

Why it's so important to talk to your teen: Teens are engaging in less high-risk behaviors, but that doesn't mean that they're safe from contaminated drugs. Many things about the American opioid crisis are nuanced and complicated, but this isn't. This is about fentanyl, a synthetic opioid that's about a hundred times stronger than morphine. A [newly-published study](#) conducted by a group of academic researchers analyzing real-time data found that federal seizures of fentanyl surged by 4,850 percent. The number of individual seizures related to fentanyl pills jumped by 834 percent. These pills are

disguised to look exactly like prescription pills and often they are purchased from dealers off of Snapchat. In one particularly heartbreaking instance, the sixteen-year-old son of TV host Laura Berman took a single pill of what he thought was the common anti-anxiety drug Xanax. He never woke up. Many teens assume prescription pills are safe because, they reason, they were prescribed to *someone*. It's essential that teens understand the risks of street drugs and how often they are being tampered with.

Slang of the Week

On one: originally referring to being on drugs with the “one” being a pill, this slang is now mostly used as a reference to acting high, feeling strong, or being silly. (Ex: “I'm actually about to pick up that wet towel before my mom finds it laying around. I must be on one right now.”)

Judging

Here are some questions to hopefully get some conversation going with your teens:

- Why do you think it's so easy to judge by appearances?
- Have you ever judged someone by their appearance and later found out you were wrong?
- Going back to the top part, do you know how to tell if something is safe to ingest?

Hopeless

44 percent of teens report feeling sad and hopeless, according to a [report published this month](#) by the CDC. Many outlets and organizations have been saying for months that teens are in a collective state of crisis, but this report solidifies just how dire things have become amongst a huge cohort of young people. As we seek to offer help to teens, it is useful to know the degree to which they are really suffering, even as we acknowledge the many individual variables that contribute to each person's mental health. (A study at Johns Hopkins point to the impact of Covid19 lockdowns as the source of this serious issue. See <https://tinyurl.com/4ftn8vdt> — dp).

“Please pray for my two year old daughter, whose baked beans have touched her hash browns.”

AN EXASPERATED MOTHER

The quote above appeared in a tweet recently. I’m guessing many of you parents relate — even I do. Between our kids, our grandkids and our “adopted” grandkids, we encountered several of these illogical, maddening “fits.” In deference to all of our kids, who are much older now, I won’t tell any personal stories (I would sure like to, though).

These kinds of confrontations are the most difficult because there is no way to reason with the child. What method of discipline, if any, fits the situation? If it turns out to be a full-blown hissy fit, sometimes the best approach is to isolate the child. James Dobson calls it “extinction” — not the extinction of the child but the extinction of the behavior by not giving them the attention the child craves. It works; we used several times.

Discipline is the most difficult and, arguably, the most important role of a parent. The writers of the Proverbs seems to think so:

Whoever spares the rod hates his son, but he who loves him is diligent to discipline him. *Proverbs 13:24*

Folly is bound up in the heart of a child, but the **rod** of discipline drives it far from him. *Proverbs 22:15*

Do not withhold discipline from a child; if you strike him with a rod, he will not die. If you strike him with the rod, you will save his soul from Sheol. *Proverbs 23:13-14*

There it is: *discipline your children!* But it’s harder than I sounds. We need to use discipline to train, not just correct. Too often, the discipline we choose for our child is based more on our feelings than on the particular offense. Have you ever taken your child to the “woodshed” (what ever that is in your disciplinary toolbox) then realized that his actions didn’t really warrant such harsh discipline? We’ve all done it.

It’s kind of a “whose ox is being gored” thing. You may find yourself criticizing your spouse for over-disciplining a child for, say, breaking a dinner plate, but then turn around and do the same thing when he leaves crayons in the backseat of the car and they melt in the hot sun. When the offense results in damage to something more important to us, it becomes a more serious offense, even if its not. I’ve seen fathers get more angry with a son who accidentally scratches his new car than if that same son uses God’s name in vain. That makes no sense; there is no comparison between the severity of these offenses. But we’re selfish. So, instead of trying to shape character, we lash out at a child who has the nerve to mess up our stuff.

It takes some sober thinking and creativity to mold the punishment to the behavior and make sure that the punishment fits the “crime.” While it’s important that our child respects property, it is vastly more important that he learns to respect God (Pr. 1:7). A child who says “omg” or who disrespects God in any way ought to be on the receiving end of your most serious discipline. If the same punishment is dished out because he scratched your car, what message does that send to your child?

The same goes for back-talking to parents. I’m appalled when I hear a child sass his mother or father and the parent does nothing. That child is headed for spiritual trouble because he does not respect authority.

“The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom” (Proverbs 1:7). That “fear” — respect — must begin at home, with the parents. Without a healthy respect for authority, first formed at home, there is little hope that the child will respect God’s ultimate authority.

Take it from a parent who made plenty of mistakes with his two kids, but got really smart when the grandkids came along: stop and think about the nature of the offense before reacting; make sure you ask some questions so you understand the situation; then fit the punishment to the offense, not to your feelings.

— dp

“...stop and think about the nature of the offense before reacting; make sure you ask some questions so you understand the situation; then fit the punishment to the offense, not to your feelings.”



‘Have you considered releasing him back into the wild?’