

July 3, 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 five 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 when is passed.
We do not solicit donations from visitors. See page 4 for more information.**

Mark your calendars!

VBS: July 18-22, 2022, 9:30-11AM

Theme: Heroes of Faith, Hebrews 11

Schedule

The Lord’s Day

9:30 AM Bible Classes

Auditorium: “Wisdom from Above”

Room 15/16: Old Testament Characters & Their Relationships

Room 12: Young Adult Class: Proverbs

10:30 AM: Assembly

Preaching Today: David Posey

Romans Series: “There is No Distinction”

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

2 PM Bible Class Suspended for the Summer

Bible Class @ 5 PM — Praying the Psalms (Auditorium)

High School 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: Wisdom from Above

Room 15/16: Old Testament Characters: Relationships

Room 12: Young Adults Class

Noisemakers & Problem Solvers

BEN WOODSIDE

How do we raise our kids to choose Christ over everything else? For 6 months (2 full quarters) I had the privilege to participate in the class “Raising Faithful Kids” which has been one of the most encouraging classes I have ever participated in. We studied within the background tapestry of all that is going on in the world. Admittedly, most parents my age have made so many mistakes and been so humbled by the experience that we feel unqualified to even share. I am so thankful that I don’t have to have the answers, just have to know where to find them.

We all want our children to choose Christ. We have taught them the importance of building their own faith and we want them to choose for themselves. That’s easier said than done for sure and the process is stressful, messy and also beautiful. There are countless examples of trials bringing purity in the story of God’s people and the process is no different for our children. Yes, this is uncomfortable and even with the best of everything some have fallen away. When a bird is pushed out of the nest it has to decide if it will fly on its own. As much as we want to purchase and put our non-flying birdies in a safe airplane it just won’t help them. So what can we do? To cover everything would take too long but I did want to focus on a couple things we all can do together to help parents and our children here at Folsom. So, when I say “our children” for the rest of this article I’m talking to you, my children are also yours. Teresa and I are grateful for everything you have done for them in their journey so far and am counting on it for the future.

Emulating Christ. The single most important thing we can do is continue to focus on what it means to be a Christian who follows or emulates Christ. This is a lifestyle we have chosen in which we sacrifice ourselves, serve others and follow his teachings. It has to dwell in our hearts, Eph 3:17. Interestingly, for the first part of the class most of our study was focused on building our own faith. We used Duet 11:19 “You shall teach them to your children, talking of them when you are sitting in your house, and when you are walking by the way, and when you lie down, and when you rise.” We have to live the life of Christ which is a “live by example” teaching culture. Our children watch everything we do, and everything we say. If we are not living the life ourselves, how can we pass it on? Have I completely sacrificed my life to Christ, to the point that no matter what question arises or issue happens I have complete confidence in Christ? Just coming to services is not enough and leads to a feeling that the church has to solve our problems. Interesting that public education has headed that way. Often, we are not comfortable with the tough questions so we don’t talk about them with our kids or we try to force answers on them to shut them down out of fear. We tend to focus too much on consequences and not enough on benefits. Life with Christ here and now is better than life without Christ. Just look at Luke 6, and then look at it again, and then study it together; the secret to life in Christ in this world can be found in that chapter.

No matter what we are going through in life we are blessed because we have Christ. What happens to us can’t shake our faith; our kids need to see that and experience that with us. We can’t just scare them with focusing on Heaven/Hell and the consequences of doing wrong. They need to be the light as talked about in John 1. Coupled with fear of doing wrong, our children are being crushed by our worldly based expectations of what is “success” and the graven image we ourselves as parents are trying to carve them into. The micro-managed expected “image” of our children has become one of the new idols of our age and the worst part is we do it with the best intentions. We have to get back to Christ, children are stepping outside the Bible to find the answers to their questions and the internet will tell them everything they want to hear. You can’t combat worldly knowledge with worldly knowledge. There is only one way, we have to center our lives on the culture of a church and family who follows Christ. This is a positive and encouraging message. John 13:34-35 says,

A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another: just as I have loved you, you also are to love one another. By this all people will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another.”

“All people” includes our children. Are we loving one another as Christ loved us? Christ was an encourager of those who were struggling or lost. He loved the children and the down-trodden. He ate meals with people making terrible life choices. He is radical in many of the ways current culture defines “radical” — equality, service, love, sacrifice, caring, etc. The interaction with the woman at the well tells volumes in how we should treat those around us. When our children’s faith is tested, we need the solid foundation of them knowing we are there to help, and Christ is there to help. We want them knowing that they have to still answer to themselves through all the turmoil they are going through “What do I do about Christ?”

Read the book of John with your kids. See how Christ interacts with others, note his style of teaching, how he deals with difficulty, how he interacts with the twisted culture he grew up in, how he dealt with politics, and social issues. Do that and they will see Christ. Much of his teaching begins with asking questions followed up by more questions, he strives for the disciples to come to their own answers. Try it sometime, ask questions and listen, you will be surprised how well that works.

What do we do if any of us are struggling, including our own children? We do not judge hearts. The hardest part of the class to get through was the topic of “judging.” We focused on Luke 6:37-38:

“Judge not, and you will not be judged; condemn not, and you will not be condemned; forgive, and you will be forgiven; give, and it will be given to you. Good measure, pressed down, shaken together, running over, will be put into your lap. For with the measure you use it will be measured back to you.”

Continued on page 3

Continued from page 2

This is different than judging fruits as in Mt. 7:15. When children are struggling with their faith, we cannot let our judging of their hearts push them away, or even worse, judging the parents in that situation. This is Satan working on us; we are uncomfortable and need something or someone to blame. It's the flesh talking so we have to withstand this temptation and come together even closer. In our class we went around the room and quoted all the harsh judgmental things that have been said in times of crises.

Thankfully this does not appear to be taking place at Folsom but it's interesting how many scars have been carried by the parents in that room, including myself, from things said in the past. The tongue can be a weapon of mass destruction; see James 3:9,

With it we bless our Lord and Father, and with it we curse people who are made in the likeness of God.

Parents are trying their best and not all kids are going to be easy so why would we judge the parents without knowing their hearts. Why would we come to such rapid conclusions when God is not done yet. In fact, if you listen to parents that have had children question their own faith, one of the factors that pushed them out is how others reacted to them and judged them which then led to claims of hypocrisy. We need to be mindful of what we say in times of trial.

Ok, then how do we help?

To build off the sermons from Romans look at Romans 15:1-7, specifically vs. 5-6:

May the God of endurance and encouragement grant you to live in such harmony with one another, in accord with Christ Jesus that together you may with one voice glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Encourage the parents, encourage the kids, spend time with them, they are brighter lights than I was at that age. Teach them, care about them. Ask them what their favorite scripture is and why. I guarantee you will be shocked at the level of insight the kids have. I have a tremendous amount of respect for the parents here and would do anything for those kids. Be mindful of our judgment and get involved with the children because the parents

need all of us.

So why am I encouraged? Because while many in the world are spending their time making noise and demanding things, it was an amazing experience to be in the trenches with parents that are actually solving the problems they face together. Stories were shared, tears were shed, hard topics were discussed all while they were all leaning on each other in pure *agape* love.

Spoiler alert, if the future of Folsom is represented by the families in that class, then it's a bright future indeed. I am grateful to each and every one of them and for everything they do for the Lord. All of us can be a part of the solution so that our kids can observe Christ at home, with family and with others in the Church. So, surprise, can't just blame the parents, all of us are responsible.

Don't be a noise maker, be a problem solver.

Two Ways To "Soundness"

Robert F. Turner

One way to have a sound church is to teach sound doctrine. Plan a well —rounded teaching program that is positive — that covers Old and New Testaments — in depth studies and kindergarten topical studies on faith and baptism, heaven and hell, the church and honesty, brotherly love and the sting of rebuke. It is all there in Gods word, and we can not have soundness without proper food. Take the initiative on subject matter rather than a steady diet of **reaction** to what someone else said or did.

Regarding reaction, be alert to social changes which may (and probably will) affect brethren. Get to the bottom of matters avoiding surface jabs at isolated cases of abuse. Be fair with the opposition. Maintain an open pulpit so that the search for **revealed** truth is never stifled. (There is no obligation to hear every mans opinion — judgement here must be based on the extent to which a contrary teaching contributes to or distracts from an objective consideration of Gods word as final truth.)

This way to have a sound church challenges each individual member. It disturbs brethren, keeps them studying — and they must either learn to respect and deal objectively with one another, or they will break into warring camps. **Christ** must be the unifying factor here, or there is no unity. (Read carefully, Phil. 1:27-2:1-f.)

Another way (?) to have a sound church is to convince a few elders or leader that certain positions on current issues are right and that taking a stand here is equivalent to soundness in all parts. (Liberals who follow this course may make a token contribution to some institution.) One of the convinced elders may order a few tracts from his partys most popular publisher — a sort of status symbol for the tract rack.

But perhaps the most important of all, in order to soundness, is to get a preacher whose name is associated with the reputation you wish to establish. Obviously a church that is sound according to our first way will desire a preacher who teaches accordingly; but we refer here to the erroneous concept that the members are sound because the preacher presents a hard line. This second way to soundness builds its name on **party loyalty** rather than on individual understanding and conviction. A hard driving preacher, backed by a few determined leaders, may whip a congregation into line so that none dare buck the establishment.