

December 18, 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.**

Schedule

The Lord’s Day

9:30 AM Bible Classes

Auditorium: “Timothy & Titus”

Room 15/16: Relationships: “Agape in Work Clothes”

Room 12: Young Adult Class: “Be ready to give an answer” (I Peter 3:15)

10:30 AM: Assembly

Preaching Today

Jarrett Ferguson: “Sorrow into Joy”

Jarrett preaches for the Lost River Church of Christ in Bowling Green, Kentucky

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

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

High School Class @ 5 PM @ David & Christie Posey’s home

Middle school class: monthly (contact David Sanderson (david.r.sanderson@intel.com)
or Seth Reagan (sethreagan@gmail.com))

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: Letters to Timothy & Titus

Room 15/16: Relationships: Love

Room 12: Young Adults Class: “Be ready to give an answer” (I Peter 3:15)

“AGEISM” IS WRONG

BY DAVID POSEY

I'm tired (almost *sick* and tired) of seeing articles and hearing comments, even from some Christians, that label and then judge a person based solely on the “generation” they happen to be in. Millennials seem to be a primary target in the last few years; they are accused of being lazy, uncommitted and you-name-it. This has not been my experience with that age group but my experience is mostly with Christian Millennials. But that's not my main point. What I find indefensible, especially among Christians, is labeling or categorizing anyone according to their age or any other criteria that they have no control (age, race, etc.). Labels come from “Group think” and though it's common today, it's also in many cases, if not all, sinful.

I'm not barking at this trend just because I'm a “boomer,” although I thought it was terribly mean when a few young people in the US called Covid a “boomer remover.” The more salient point, for us, is that God doesn't divide people up into age groups. In fact, we can extrapolate from Galatians 3:28 that “ageism” — at either end of the spectrum — is just as sinful as judging them for anything else. As a reminder, it says,

There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is no male and female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus.

“Bias based on someone's age is wrong. We can't flee fast enough from the world's standard of worth and realize that all people, regardless of age or circumstance, are precious in the sight of the Lord. Age has nothing to do with it.”

Some have taken this text way out of context to support extended women's roles in church (forgetting, apparently, that Paul wrote I Timothy 2:11-12 well after writing Galatians). His point, as he clearly says, is that we are “all **one** in Christ Jesus” (regardless of how we are labeled in society. And let's not forget Paul's admonition to Timothy: “Let no one despise you for your youth, but set the believers an example in speech, in conduct, in love, in faith, in purity” (I Timothy 4:12).

“Ageism” is defined as bias or discrimination based on a person's age. It seems that this “ism” is more “acceptable” to some Christians than others (sexism, racism, etc.). Small churches are often “written off” as dead just because the majority of the members are senior citizens. But old doesn't mean “over-the-hill” or useless. “*Gray hair is a crown of glory; it is gained in a righteous life*” (Proverbs 16:31). “*The glory of young men is their strength, but the splendor of old men is their gray hair*” (Proverbs 20:29). Since I first started preaching I was “mentored” by men older than me — at least 15-20 years older. Many of those men have passed but I still owe them a great debt of gratitude. Wisdom is precious, but often undervalued.

Ageism is not limited to judging older folks, however. Some older folks are routinely critical of young people just because they are young. They assume that since a young person doesn't have their level of experience they can't possibly have much depth to their faith. People who think that way apparently don't interact much with our young people at Folsom. If they took the time to find out what our kids are thinking, they might be surprised at the depth of their knowledge and faith — and wisdom.

There's something else, and this might touch a nerve or two. Some of our most critical older, experienced brethren do not have faithful children. I'm not saying that kids leaving the Lord is always the parents' fault but you might expect that it would tame some of the criticism of other parents' kids.

Bias based on someone's age is wrong. We can't flee fast enough from the world's standard of worth and realize that all people, regardless of age or circumstance, are precious in the sight of the Lord. *Age has nothing to do with it.*

What God Means to Make of Us

“When a man turns to Christ and seems to be getting on pretty well (in the sense that some of his bad habits are corrected), he often feels that it would now be natural if things went fairly smoothly. When troubles come along—illnesses, money troubles, new kinds of temptation—he is disappointed. These things, he feels, might have been necessary to rouse him and make him repent in his bad old days; but why now? Because God is forcing him on, or up, to a higher level: putting him into situations where he will have to be very much braver, or more patient, or more loving, than he ever dreamed of being before. It seems to us all unnecessary: but that is because we have not yet had the slightest notion of the *tremendous thing he means to make of us.*”

— C. S. Lewis, *Mere Christianity*
p. 174-175



Reminder: “the anger of man does not produce the righteousness of God.”

James 1:20

WHAT IS “MORALLY ACCEPTABLE?”

WHAT DOES THE BIBLE SAY?

BY DAVID POSEY

There was a young man who visited a church during the 3 months of summer and when he got home, he complained to his father that he didn't hear *even one sermon* on “MDR” (*marriage, divorce, remarriage*) during the 90 days he was there. His father, a preacher, wrote to the church complaining about it.

Maybe I'm wrong, but I find that rather bizarre. Yet, there are probably a few members in most churches that believe that “strong preaching” requires frequent sermons on several “hot topics.” Now, if the “hot topics” include lessons on commitment to Christ, the love of God, loving our neighbor, unity in the church, forgiveness, worship, grace, obedience and lots of lessons about life in Christ, then I agree. But that is not what some mean when they speak of “hot topics” and “strong preaching.” They are referring to cultural issues such as abortion, homosexuality, women's roles and even partisan political issues.

Those of us who preach once on Sundays have a total of about 30 hours of preaching time. So, you be the judge: does it make sense to spend the bulk of those 30 hours on these kinds of topics?

I say no. Why? I'll start with the *mostly* effective slogan that I heard almost weekly in my youth: “*Speak where the Bible speaks and be silent where the Bible is silent.*” That's another way of saying what Peter said better in I Peter 4:11, “If anyone speaks let him speak as the very utterance of God.” If we apply that principle, then speaking for 35-40 minutes to a group of believers on the topics below seems to be saying more than the Bible says. Of course, sometimes there are circumstances where it is necessary, but when Bible speaks clearly on a subject, then quoting the Bible on that subject should be sufficient — assuming the person accepts that the Bible is God's word and is authoritative.

So, with that in mind, here is what the Bible says about issues that are common today (all references are from the NASB). Needless to say, this is not an exhaustive list. Of course, each of these texts have a context; I would encourage you to read the whole paragraph or pericope to determine that context. Otherwise, they seem self-explanatory.

- **On Adultery & Fornication** (sex outside marriage): Hebrews 13:4 — “Marriage is to be held in honor among all, and the marriage bed is to be undefiled; for fornicators and adulterers God will judge.”
- **On Abortion**: the sixth commandment: Exodus 20:13, “You shall not murder.” See Revelation 21:8 below.
- **On Lying**: Revelation 21:8 — “as for the cowardly, the faithless, the detestable, as for murderers, the sexually immoral, sorcerers, idolaters, and all liars, their portion will be in the lake that burns with fire and sulfur, which is the second death.”

- **On Homosexuality**: I Corinthians 6:9-10 — “Or do you not know that the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived; neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor effeminate, nor homosexuals, nor thieves, nor the covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor swindlers, will inherit the kingdom of God.” See Romans 1:26-28.
- **On Greed**: Colossians 3:5-6 — “Therefore consider the members of your earthly body as dead to immorality, impurity, passion, evil desire, and greed, which amounts to idolatry. For it is because of these things that the wrath of God will come upon the sons of disobedience.”
- **On Pornography and “Sexual Fantasies”**: Matthew 5:27-28 — “You have heard that it was said, “You shall not commit adultery”; but I say to you that everyone who looks at a woman with lust for her has already committed adultery with her in his heart.”
- **On Drunkenness**: Romans 13:13-14 — “Let us behave properly as in the day, not in carousing and drunkenness, not in sexual promiscuity and sensuality, not in strife and jealousy.” See I Peter 4:3-5
- **On Profanity/Vulgarity**: Ephesians 4:29-30 — “Let no unwholesome word proceed from your mouth, but only such a word as is good for edification according to the need of the moment, so that it will give grace to those who hear.” See Ephesians 5:4.
- **On women “pastors”**: I Timothy 2:11-12 — “Let a woman learn quietly with all submissiveness. I do not permit a woman to teach or to exercise authority over a man; rather, she is to remain quiet.” See I Corinthians 14:34-35.

Obviously, there are many other issues that arise in society and in churches. Some of those are not dealt with adequately with a short text; but some are. The point is that we must let God's word determine our stance on an issue, not our think-so's or our opinions or the opinions of others.

God's Word can't be changed.

God's Word can't be contained.

God's Word can't be confined.

God's Word can't be crushed.

God's Word can't be canceled.