

Port Orchard



Church of
Christ



Where Jesus is Loved, Jesus is
Lifted, Jesus is Lived

Are Christians Guilty of Brainwashing their Children?

The more worldly and ungodly American society becomes, the more devout Christians will be criticized and persecuted for their beliefs and actions. One popular criticism that has been levied against Christians in recent years involves the Christian home. Allegedly, Christian parents are guilty of brainwashing their kids. Before children are old enough to digest for themselves all of the evidence for God's existence, the Bible's inspiration, or Jesus' deity, some Christians (though sadly not near enough) are ingraining these beliefs into their children. Faithful Christian parents regularly and systematically teach their children fundamental Christian teachings without apology. Is this not a form of brainwashing? Is it not "forcible indoctrination"? How do Christians respond to the "brainwash" accusation?

First, we freely and unashamedly admit that we instruct our children in the ways of God from the time that they are born until they leave home. We sing to them about God. We talk to them about Jesus. We read to them from the Holy Spirit's inspired Word. Moses instructed the Israelites:

You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your strength. And these words which I command you today shall be in your heart. You shall teach them diligently to your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in

your house, when you walk by the way, when you lie down, and when you rise up. You shall bind them as a sign on your hand, and they shall be as frontlets between your eyes. You shall write them on the doorposts of your house and on your gates (Deuteronomy 6:5-9).

Just as "Jesus increased in wisdom and stature, and in favor with God and men" (Luke 2:52), so the children of Jesus' followers should be brought up "in the training and admonition of the Lord" (Ephesians 6:4).

But is this really the right thing to do? Is it not arrogant to teach kids that atheists and agnostics are wrong and that theists are right? Should we not let kids decide on their own if they want to believe in God? Is it not cultish to say Jesus "is the way, the truth, and the life"—that no one will live eternally in heaven except through Him (John 14:6)? Shouldn't children be allowed to think for themselves? The fact is, **all** parents (even atheistic and agnostic parents) teach their children that certain things are true and certain things are false; that some things are right and other things are wrong. Think about it: Can parents teach their children that $2 + 2 = 4$, or must they allow their children to learn this for themselves? Can a mother teach her children that they are not ever to crawl into a freezer and close the door,
(Continued on back page.)

Church Staff:

Kelli Keagle.....757.389.1382

Deacons:

Gary Chasteen360.895.4143
Gene Gerard360.876.4612
Troy Hill..... 360.674.7181
Brad Orser.....360.874.8184

Welcome Guests

We are so glad that you decided to visit Port Orchard Church of Christ this morning! Since you took this step to join us for worship, we would like to extend to you a warm welcome. Wherever you are this morning, as we lift worship to God, we pray that you are able to leave feeling uplifted, convicted, or encouraged in your faith.

We seek to worship God like the first century

church did, with a sense of awe and with a fear of the Lord. Some things we do might seem old fashioned or traditional, but we want you to know that at its core, it is for the praise of God's glory.

You are not required to do anything weird or ostentatious. We hope that you feel free to join us in worshipping God to the best of your abilities. If you have any specific needs, we

have a ministry staff that would love to connect with you. Ask the people sitting around you for names of the ministry staff and to point them out!

Once again, we are so happy to have you here worshipping with us and we hope this is a chance to worship God in a deep and meaningful way.

Save the Dates!

Sunday 02/11 *Special Service
& Potluck*

Friday 02/23 *Bunco Night*
6-8 pm *Fundraiser*

Port Orchard News and Events

Special Service Today

At our last congregational meeting, our deacons introduced their thoughts for beginning the process of hiring a minister. It was decided that today, Sunday, February 11th, during the sermon time, the congregation will have an open discussion on the matter. This meeting is the first of many opportunities for our members to voice their opinions, concerns, and hopes for the future regarding the hiring of a minister. Worship Service begins at 10:45. We hope to see you here!

Happy Birthday!

February: Virginia Chapman-02, Israel Cormier-02, Tammy Avery-05, Laura Gerard-07, Chris Hill-07, Carla Duffy-08, Molly Bell-09, Melvin Byrd-09, Terri Hall-09, Zari Keagle-09, DeLoris Lawler-09, Ken Avery-10, Jennifer Delay-14, Katrina Coley-15, Lara Chavez-17, Rachel Karn-18, Zari Cormier-19, Jason Hall-20, Christian Wheeler-22, and Hayley O'Dell-28

Last Sunday

Avery Stafford shared a sermon with us last Sunday. If you missed his message, please visit the church website at pococ.weebly.com to listen.

Serving February 11, 2018:

Prayer Leader:	Deacons	Communion Prep:	Rick Velasco
Scripture Reader:	Deacons	Communion Cleanup:	Reinkes
Offering Thoughts:	Deacons	Song Leader:	Gene Gerard
Communion Meditation:	Deacons		
Servers:	Tim Duffy & Greg Warner	Children's 9:30 Teacher:	Kelli Keagle
Ushers:	Jarrod Coley & Brandon Zepf	Youth Worship:	Jessica Zepf
Greeters:	Dale & Lori Sanders	Preaching:	Planning Meeting
Prayer Partners:	James & Connie Greer		
Sound:	Dale Sanders		
Slides/Lighting:	Dale Sanders		

*Dear Church Family,
Thank you for making our mission trip happen! Thank you for your sacrifice, excitement and love! And we thank you for your prayers for our safety and success as we reach out and touch Mexico City with the Gospel! May God bless you!
Kind Regards,
Trent, Michelle, & Elizabeth Herbert*

Bunco Night

What: Sarah and Paula Hill are hosting a Bunco Night to raise funds for their Japan Trip.

When: Friday, February 23rd, 6-8 pm

Where: Port Orchard church of Christ Fellowship Hall

How: Everyone should bring a dish to share. It will be a \$15 buy-in. Prizes will be awarded. Also there will be items that we will be raffling off. Sarah will be providing child care for those that require it. There will be a sign-up sheet available at church on the back board. If interested or have questions, contact Paula Hill.

Film Showing at Manchester Community Library

Our sister Sarah Benjamin has arranged to show a documentary film called *Rape for Profit* at the Manchester branch of the Kitsap Regional Library. This documentary gives real footage of police officers and their interaction with trafficked women (as well as pimps) on our home streets of Seattle. This movie shows what prostitution is really like (versus what popular culture assumes it is). The link between pornography and prostitution is also discussed. The showing will be on Saturday, February 24th from 4-7pm. Coreen Schnepf, a Senior Deputy Prosecuting Attorney at Kitsap County Prosecutor's Office, will be in attendance to speak about her work and the County's work against human trafficking in Kitsap.

Garage Sale for Manger Scene Fund

To have a successful garage sale, donated stuff is needed. Please donate usable stuff. Not usable:

- No big exercise equipment.
- No old TVs or stereo equipment
- No badly stained, excessively used, excessively dirty, badly damaged, unworkable or broken, has an odor or appears to be unsafe stuff
- No items that go against church values or standards

The church garage is available for storage. See or call Barbara Chasteen or Rick Velasco. For help with cleaning out, transportation of stuff, to volunteer your time, questions or suggestions, see Barb or Rick. To donate to the fund or to get a tax receipt for your donation, ask Gary Chasteen. Please donate prayer for the Port Orchard church of Christ building and property, congregation, people serving here, ministries, missions, and goals. More details for the garage sale will be given as the summer draws near. Thank you for your support.

Our Prayer List

Healing:

Elijah Cormier
Gary Chasteen
Gene Gerard
James Greer
Dorothy Fletcher
Penny DelBarto
Kelli Keagle
Delores Lawler
Norm Brinkley
Margaret Myers
Tammy Avery's friend Roxanne

Encouragement:

Gardner Family moving to Hope of Honduras
Children's Home
Spiritual Leadership Group
Those Grieving the loss of Loved Ones: Avery
Stafford, Troy Hill

Traveling:

Sneads

Other:

Our children, church, nation, President Trump and ministries.
That God will bless our deacons with wisdom in reaching the many decisions they are entrusted with.
Direction of our congregation.

February 4, 2018

Worship: 64

Class: 36

Offering: \$2,564.35

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or must she allow her children to risk suffocation and “learn on their own”? Can a father forbid his son from touching his guns and knives, or should he just leave them on the floor for the child to discover on his own what he should or should not do with such things? Can parents teach their children that they are to be kind to one another, and if they bite and hit each other they will be punished? Can parents teach their children that lying is wrong? Or, must parents simply allow the children to lie whenever they want, and to make up their own minds if lying is wrong for them when they become 18? Most rational adults would never sanction such foolish “parenting.” All parents “brainwash” their children about certain things. [Furthermore, we also understand that children grow up and ultimately decide for themselves what they want to believe and how they want to act, regardless of past influences (cf. Joshua 24:15; Revelation 22:17).]

In truth, Christians teaching their children that God exists or that the Bible is God’s Word is as logical, truthful, and fundamental as teaching them that $2 + 2 = 4$. If parents can teach their children laws of science, such as the Law of Causality, the First and Second Laws of Thermodynamics, and the Law of Biogenesis, then they are implicitly teaching their children that God exists, because all of these laws point to a Creator. If parents can teach children that no mere man knows the future, and then read from the Bible dozens of examples of fulfilled prophecies, they have simply taught the fundamental fact that the Bible is a book of Supernatural origin. Indeed, God exists and the Bible is His Word.

God wants us to teach our children about Him and His Word because it is the **right** thing to do. If it is acceptable to teach our kids about reading, writing, and arithmetic, about the laws of science, and

about how bad lying and murder are, it most certainly is rational to teach children about the evidence for God’s existence and the reliability of His Word. After all, we would not even have reading, writing, arithmetic, laws of science, truth, the value of human life, etc. without God. He is the foundation of every good and true thing. He “is true” (John 3:33). His “Spirit is truth” (1 John 5:6). His “word is truth” (Psalm 119:160; John 17:17). And the truth will set men free (John 8:32). **Nothing** is more important to teach children.

*If Apologetics Press may help you effectively “brainwash” (i.e., instruct) your children in the ways of God, please do not hesitate to call upon us.

-Eric Lyons, M.Min.

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Access Date: 02/06/2018

Port Orchard Church of Christ
4135 Carr Lane SE
Port Orchard, WA 98366
360.876.2604
churchpococ@gmail.com
www.pococ.weebly.com