



Newsletter

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Franklin Road Baptist Church

Christ is our Message . . . The Bible is our Text

UGLY FIREWORKS



Nothing makes a celebration any more complete than a good old fashioned fireworks display. On Independence Day this Thursday, many of us will watch these amazing pyrotechnics programs either in person or on television and marvel at the brilliance and beauty of these great displays. Seldom is anyone disappointed and rarely would anyone call fireworks ugly.

Yet consider the temper tantrums you've seen in the store when little Johnny or Susie's mom says "no" to the newest, greatest razzle-dazzle cereal the child saw advertised on TV. And what about the mommy and daddy who fuss at each other about money or helping around the house or who will pick up the kids after soccer? Grown men fight and feud about silly things like ball games or parking spots or politics. Scenes like these make us uneasy and uncomfortable. When we witness these fireworks we're embarrassed for those involved. Our best hope is to somehow shuffle away and try to forget the explosions we've witnessed.

As Christians we might find some solace in assigning these fireworks displays to those who are unsaved. After all, those without Christ do not have the spiritual resources to truly and consistently do right; and Satan, who loves confusion and chaos, inspires them to continue their conflicts. In reality, however, we all know that those involved in these ugly outbursts are not all unbelievers. In fact, the Apostle Paul frets that when he visits Corinth he will encounter carnal Christians in conflict. He writes, "For I am afraid that perhaps when I come I may find you to be not what I wish and may be found by you to be not what you wish; that perhaps there will be strife, jealousy, angry tempers, disputes, slanders, gossip, arrogance, disturbances; (II Corinthians 12:20). Indeed as the tempers and tongues of these carnal Christians got the best of them Paul expected some really ugly and ungodly fireworks.

How sad it is when believers are not behavers!

What will others see when we congregate to celebrate on the 4th? God help us to be beautiful lights and not ugly fireworks.

Looking Up!

Pastor Chuck Circle