

“Casual vs Passionate”

Last week I said I thought we have become too casual as Christians, and I believe, as Pastor Chester said, we have become stuck in a “routine” rut. In our church daily devotional last Friday it said this: *“Faithfulness is **not** doing it how it has always been done. It’s **not** preserving the status quo. Bottom line: Our message must never change, but our methods **must change** if we are to gather in the final harvest...”*

I saw a post on FB the other day that showed a lady standing there and a man laying on the ground in front of her. The caption read “My husband told me the spark was gone from our marriage, so I just tased him, and I’ll let you know what he has to say now when he recovers.” Sounds funny doesn’t it? But listen to what God has to say about that “spark” in 1 Cor. 7:4-5: *“Neither the husband nor the wife have exclusive rights to their own bodies, but those rights are to be surrendered to the other. So don’t continue to refuse your spouse those rights, except perhaps by mutual agreement for a specified time so that you can both be devoted to prayer. And then you should resume your physical pleasure so that the Adversary cannot take advantage of you because of the desires of your body.”* (NKJV)

Why would I bring that up, you ask? Because I believe that many of us have become too casual in our marriages! When we are young and newly married, we are very passionate about one another, but as we grow older, that initial passion wanes by degrees, which is normal, but I feel that in too many cases, that passion is allowed to die, and we end up having a casual, but not passionate relationship with our mate.

So...what does that have to do with church? EVERYTHING!! Unfortunately for many of us, this same lack of passion has crept into our spiritual lives! When we were first saved, we couldn’t seem to get enough of what God had to offer us - we read the word, went to church as often as we could, and were eager to learn as much as we could and grow in our spiritual walk. Unfortunately, for many, that passion fades away and we settle into a casual, Sunday morning only routine, having found that other interests in life have taken its place.

Jesus was asked what the greatest commandment was, and He responded by saying: *“you shall love the LORD your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind, and with all your strength... and the second, like it, is this: ‘You shall love your neighbor as yourself.’”* (NKJV) I’m sorry, but a casual attitude does not line up with God’s plan. We need to examine our relationship with God and with our mates, and ask ourselves if we have become too casual. If the answer is yes, then we need to confess it, repent of it, and ask God to help us be more passionate, towards Him, and towards our mates as well! Put that “spark” back in your relationships! Amen!