

Complacency, Spiritual boredom and church hopping...

Religion always leads to complacency and spiritual boredom...

How can we get bored in a relationship with an all-knowing God? With the condition of the world today we could and should have many questions for God. He desires his children to come to him with questions, in the posture of humility. He will give us answers, meaning he will reveal himself in an applicable way to bring the solutions needed for the Father to be glorified. For a brief example, Jesus was the bread of life to the hungry and a healer to the sick. He revealed himself as their solution, which he absolutely is. As Christ is formed in us we become part of the solution that brings about change in the world, as the Kingdom of heaven invades the earth. If someone says they are bored with their relationship with God, it clearly shows they don't have one! Loving Jesus is a full time job, it's my fulltime job and many times I fall very short of my job description. Boredom is certainly not a problem for anyone with an authentic relationship with Jesus Christ, the all-knowing, omnipresent God. When someone is lead astray by their own lusts into sin, it only means that they have become complacent in their love for Jesus. Complacency is when we stop responding to the one who first loved us.

When Jesus becomes second place in our hearts we are already backslidden in our behavior. This practical and simple truth is seen clearly in the book of Revelation. Jesus was talking to the church of Ephesus. He said, "this I have against you, you have lost your first love." Then he commanded them to return to their first works, their heart

and their behavior seemed in this rebuke to be inseparable. When our heart begins to drift, our behavior goes downhill also. Many times when a heart becomes bored with Jesus they seek a new church or go conference hopping in search of a spiritual orgasm. I love conferences, I even spoke at one, and I visit other churches very frequently because I preach for a living, but if Jesus isn't enough and you are deeply disappointed with him and how you respond to him, than another church isn't going to help.

The grass is not greener on the other side...

When we have a disappointment in our heart because our love for Jesus has grown cold, certain things that are not opportunities appear to be opportunities. Solomon said it like this in Proverbs 27:7 KJVER "The full soul loathes a honeycomb; but to the hungry soul every bitter thing is sweet." People have different perspectives and that's why the church is filled with so much division! If we had the mind of Christ then there wouldn't be room for so much division. The mind of Christ isn't confused or offended with God; even though God ordered his death at his voluntary participation. There are some things that God orchestrates in our life to bring about death to self. When these things happen, people get offended and run to other churches in search of another messiah in a better suit in a bigger building. I have nothing against a big building or a nice suite I even have a Burberry suit. What I am coming against is running from someone to something; meaning running from Jesus to a different group of people, for the wrong reasons. Offense gives birth to division. God's purposes don't flourish in a region because of this problem. Here's a small example. Brother know-it-all get's

offended with his Pastor who knows a little more than him. He say's, "Pastor, I am leaving the church in search of greener pastures." So because of offense he leaves, then he starts a home group that grows into a church, it was birthed because of offense through division. Many people and ministries were not cleanly birthed therefore they can only produce something unclean and unhealthy. God doesn't release Apostolic influence or deep Prophetic revelation to a region filled with division. If he did, it would be "repent, get the offense out of your heart and be reconciled to your brother or Pastor, and let my love satisfy your heart." A ministry birthed out of a division or a church split only reproduces what it is, something divisive that releases confusion. A Kingdom Divided can't stand, and it definitely can't walk.

Since I have been saved I have attended three local churches. I have witnessed the exact same thing in all three churches. Broken people who are trying to learn how to love God and each other. All of these people have profound weakness and charter defects just like yours truly. All three Pastors have richly blessed me. I have seen people be offended and leave all three churches in search for a utopia of people who only exist in the mind of the wanderer. They have never found what they were looking for, because it doesn't exist. The rest they are looking for only comes from coming to Jesus continually, fervently and in great humility. As great as church is, and as committed unto death as the early Apostles were, they too were certainly not perfect. There were false teachers then who appealed to the grass is greener method of seducing people out from where God put them into their own flock. This still happens today, and is quite common today in our land. We must not participate or entertain this kind of stuff. Many people

will say that Pastor know-it-all is their problem or that brother sandpaper rubbed them the wrong way, but in reality we are our biggest problem! I know sister gossip and brother “log in the eye” can really irritate you, but they are not our biggest problem. Their behavior of darkness only shines light on our problems or insecurities.

Our deepest problem lies in the fact that we have little to no revelation of the Love of Christ. Our second biggest problem is that we have little to no experience of this revelation. If we are going to live this Christian life out we need to have revelation of his love and experience with it, so that we can give it away. This is God’s priority. If we do this we will fulfill the great commission. The great commandment is what empowers us to fulfill the great commission. Paul the Apostle said it this way “the Love of Christ compels me.” When we are apprehended and compelled by the love of Christ we will represent him the right way in our everyday life. If our hearts are not faithful to Jesus in the mundane things in life, we can’t be trusted with the extravagant joy of doing exploits with and for God. When the love of Christ isn’t enough, we become bored and complacent, or complacent and bored. When we are this way with God we tend to be edgy and easily offended with people. Our love for people is a reflection of our revelation of God’s love for us. When we have a revelation of love we will be forgiving people who find being offended hard work. Even if we are temporarily offended or angry, we don’t let bitterness grow by allowing the sun to go down on our wrath. The commitment to forgive others alone can keep you busy for a lifetime, especially if you are in full time ministry. That’s another article, moving onto a more enjoyable reading topic.

In Deuteronomy 6, Jesus gave the command to Moses “Hear O Israel” then Jesus goes on to tell the people that they should love the Lord their God with all they got. The beginning starts with “hear”, we grow a deep affection for Jesus through hearing him. Jesus would not tell us to love God with all we got if God didn’t love us with all he’s got. This one truth can fascinate our hearts at least until the Lord returns. Our love grows as he speaks, his word washes and cleans our heart, changes our perspective and through this we have access to the mind of Christ and the heart of God. Revelation comes and our love grows. The reason I say that revelation is made to grow us in love as God’s wisdom fascinates our heart is because the Father did that with Jesus. The Gospel of John says it something like this, “the Father loves the Son and shows him all things.” If we continually do this, the conference won’t make or break us, the bigger church down the street with the better seats won’t allure us. Comfortable seats are ok, don’t get so legalistic with me, and just keep reading. If we really are obeying the first and great commandment we can’t be complacent or spiritually bored in search of the greener grass.

Loving our neighbor alone can give us a life mission that can only be fueled by God’s love for them and us, but in the order of us and them. What I mean by that is that we can only love our neighbor as our self. If we don’t love ourselves we won’t love our neighbor or care about our neighborhood. When love is abounding for God, good works come forth naturally. People won’t have to tell us what to do or give us a ministry title. We naturally connect with God’s passions and do his work as we connect with his love. My heart felt desire is that our affections for Jesus would be depended, and our love

others would become more visible to the world around us. Jesus said they would know we are his disciples by our love for one another. Remember Jesus' victorious sacrifice and you won't be able to be complacent, offended, or bored.

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