

Spice It Up

“This is boring!” “Do we have to?!?” “When are we going to get there?!” All these statements have been made to me by some of the most beloved people in my life—namely my children. The next couple of months I want to address some of the issues that cause drift in our relationships. The first month’s endeavor is “boredom.”

Mark 6:4 (ESV) Jesus said something profound: “A prophet is not without honor, except in his hometown and among his relatives and in his own household.” I would like to suggest to the reader that a common problem in relationships is boredom. This sense of a boring relationship is not limited to children and parents but also to husband and wife; and also pastor and congregation. Getting bored can lead to a septic relationship. I would like to address this issue from the perspective of pastor and congregation.

In my 39 years of pastoring the same church one of the early issues I had to face was people became bored with me. This surfaced during the first few years of the new church I planted. A key couple came to me and said, “we are going to be looking for another church.” “Why?” I asked. “Because most of your sermons seem to tell us what we ‘ought’ to be doing with little regard to other Biblical revelation.” “We walk away from church feeling we have so much ‘duty’ to do that it becomes a heavy burden.”

I did some careful analysis and sure enough—it was true. I seemed to find all the passages of Scripture that told us what we had to do. I began reading other materials than my favorite “ought to” authors and I began to reinvent my presentations. God was gracious and after 6 months the couple came back. I share this with you to provoke our thinking.

I do believe both individuals need to work on this business of “boredom.” I will address first the poor “bored” person. Here’s what you need to do: 1. Pray for the “authority” in your life whether it be pastor, husband or parent who have become boring. 2. At the right moment of vulnerability weigh in with a prayerful suggestion.

Now to the leader that has fallen into boring tactics. 1. Pray that the Lord will keep you fresh and enthusiastic in your calling. 2. Bring some new spice to your life. Change the way you do things.



Let me share with you a couple examples: My wife and I read an article that mentioned the importance of adding a new joint adventure every 5 years. A few years ago we bought a bicycle for 2 that we ride around out town—looking at flowers and landscaping of various homes. A few years later we bought cross country skis to do together. Just recently we decided to build a small log cabin together. The point is there are so many things that distract us. Spice up the things you do together.

Another example is change up worship services. I discovered I had become predictable in worship that I led. I added power point and pictures to my sermons. I used tasteful videos to illustrate my points. I would begin services with my sermon. I would preach from a table and have my youth pastor dialog with me.

I remember a statement I read by Anne Ortlund. *“It’s a sin to bore the saints.”* The gospel is powerful and quick. Heaven forbid we become boring!

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