

Renewing Our Fizz Before We Fizzle

Intro: How many people do you know that like stale, flat, lifeless soda? How about a Pepsi or Coke that is sort of like drinking watered down syrup?

I remember Lucille's mom and we would go there to visit and in her town, the water was terrible so her mom would say, go downstairs and get a carton of Pepsi off the shelf. The problem was that she never checked the dates on them and they were often flat. They had lost their fizz and were about as bad tasting as the water there in town.

Thought: I believe that sometimes the church and the people who make her up need to examine itself and see, if per chance, it has lost some of the fizz it should have. It has lost its bubbly.

So lets go to the shelf and examine our church as well as our personal lives and see if we are losing our fizz, or in other words, see if we are as bubbly as we should be.

There may be someone in our local area who is looking for a good tasting bubbling drink so we want to be our best don't we?

First lets notice

I. How to tell if a church or its people has lost its fizz, and is about to fizzle out.

I would suggest that a church begins to lose its fizz and fizzle, not being very bubbly when

A. Its people become selfish

When a church begins to look out only for its own personal interests then it is in danger of going flat.

Philippians 2:3,4 says Don't be selfish; don't live to make a good impression on others. Be humble, thinking of others as better than yourself. Don't think only about your own affairs, but be interested in others, too, and what they are doing.

B. Secondly a church or its people loses its fizz and gets ready to fizzle out when it becomes proud in what it has accomplished.

Thought: If at first you do succeed try something harder, AND that is the problem

Churches and people really do have some successes but sadly many want to rest on them instead of going on to greater things. In so doing it begins to fizzle out and lose its bubbly

Thought: Irving Berlin once noted that the toughest thing about success is that you have to continue to be successful

Thirdly,

C. A church and its people begins to fizzle out and lose the bubbly that puts sparkle into it, when they become lazy in its service.

Thought: No one can help everybody but everybody can help someone. It is as we help someone else, that the sparkle and bubbly of a church or a life affects the thirsty ones around them.

We are saved to serve, not saved to sit. As we serve, we will ourselves be refreshed and provide a place of refreshing to others.

Then we see that a church starts to fizzle out, or lose its zest, fizz and bubbly when

D. It becomes satisfied with its progress

It is easy to become satisfied when we look at all that the Lord has done for us, but even with all he has done for and through us, where do we read that it is time to stop working for the Kingdom?

Actually John 9:4 says it quite differently. Listen to it - *All of us must quickly carry out the tasks assigned us by the one who sent me, because there is little time left before the night falls and all work comes to an end.*

John 4:35 also nudges us a bit with these words *Do you think the work of harvesting will not begin until the summer ends four months from now? Look around you! Vast fields are ripening all around us and are ready now for the harvest.*

Thought: When we get too comfortable lets remember this saying: If we refuse to serve the Lord, one day he may refuse to let us

If that time comes, we will certainly have fizzled, instead of having some fizz or zest in our church and its life.

Finally a church loses its fizz, its life, and its impact on a thirsty world when

E. It becomes introverted instead of extroverted

Think of watching a bottle of soda when it is opened. The bubbles rise up to the top, headed towards going out of the bottle don't they?

That is the way the church is supposed to be, *outward oriented*. When we look only inward we end up being small, petty, argumentative, etc. as we try to keep our little kingdom in place.

And when people see that, they certainly don't want to drink from the fountain we say we represent do they?

Well, we have looked at some reasons churches and many people fail, fizzle out, or are flat but now lets look at

II. How to get some of that fizz back, or how can we get our church or lives re-fizzed?

First, we need to

A. Renew our vision of a lost world

This comes when we get too introverted and caught up with ourselves. We forget that there is a lost world to whom we are to take the message of salvation through Christ. Those on the road to heaven will not be content to go there alone so lets reach out to a world in need, with the Word it needs.

Have you forgotten that there are still lost people in our world? If so, you may be a bit flat. To get your fizz back why not renew your vision of a lost world.

You were once a part of that lost world until someone with some fizz and a vision for you and you lost condition came to you with the good news.

Secondly we need to

B. Renew our commitment

Our commitment to God, to our church, to our neighborhood, to our fellow strugglers on the highway of life.

Thirdly we need to

C. Renew our pledge of obedience

There is an interesting passage with some powerful words in John 2 at the wedding at Cana

Most of us know the 7 words that kill the fizz in any church and make it about as flat as it can get. They are we've never done it that way before

The 7 words of Jesus mother here at the wedding feast will put that fizz back into any fizzled out church. Look at them V 5 where she said *"Whatever He says to you, do it."*

When we start being obedient, and do the things we know we should be doing, it will make us a bubbly church filled with bubbly people. A church that others will want to be a part of.

Delayed obedience is disobedience, so if we want some fizz and bubbly in our lives and in our church, we need to recommit to being obedient and doing it right away.

Well thus far we have looked at why churches lose their fizz and become stale and flat.

But I want to close by looking at

III. Evidences of a **fizzing** church, not a **fizzled** church. First there will be

A. Hope experienced, love actively expressed, happiness, peace, and encouragement by those who attend. There will also be active service given for the cause and mission of the church.

B. There will an uncomplicated and exciting flow and rhythm of church life where her families, are to a great extent, free of the stress of living. Not fearing legalism but living to God's grace each day.

C. There will be a big world starting right in its own neighborhood with a consistent **and persistent** outreach to the homes that make up the local community.

It will be the church that is described in the Book of Acts where we see numbers added daily. This fizzing bubbling church will be a church where people are being saved. This will also be a church where relationships will be strengthened.

Then it will be a church

D. Where discipleship will be taking place because people have time for being discipled.

Finally, it will be a church where

E. Its members are taking back the ground that has been given up to other things. When that was happening, the fizz was going out and the church was fizzling.

How are we doing as a church and the people who make her up. We haven't gotten too comfortable and are starting to fizzle are we? If we have, lets get back some of our bubbly and reach out to our neighborhood and start renewed growth once again.

In closing if you are not a part of the church or if your life is flat and fizz-less why not read the next few lines, follow the instructions, and allow Jesus to fill your life with the fizz that never fails to touch the lives of those around you?

Realize you are a sinner Romans 3:23

Understand that the payday for sin is death or eternal conscious separation from God. Romans 6:23a

Know that there is a way of escape for you. Romans 6:23b and John 1:12

Desire to escape and pray this or a similar prayer.

"Dear God, I know I am a sinner. I am truly sorry for my sins, and I confess them all to You [name them]. Lord Jesus, forgive all my sins and come into my heart as my Saviour and Lord. I receive You right now. Help me from this time forward to live for You. Thank You for hearing and answering my prayer. In Jesus' name. Amen."

On the _____ day of _____ I became a Christian by inviting Jesus Christ into my life to forgive my sin.

Signed: _____

If you have further questions or have chosen to do this, be sure to let us know so we can help you, pray for you and encourage you in your new life.

You can reach us at lapeerchurch@gmail.com Subject line: (Salvation)