
“Why are Your Disciples having so much FUN?”

1. **Intro:**
   1.1. **Q:** Is it proper for a Christian to have fun, joy, pleasure, happiness, excitement, delight?
      1.1.1. It’s not only ok, it’s right! – Eccl.3:12,13.
      1.1.2. **Ps.16:11** “In Your presence is fullness of joy; At Your right hand are pleasures forevermore”

2. **WHY ARE YOUR DISCIPLES HAVING SO MUCH FUN?** (33-39)

2.1. **MESSIAH’S MERRY MEN!** (33-35)
   2.2. **Intro:** Still at the feast in Levi’s house.
      2.2.1. **Important side note:** Mark 2:18 “The disciples of John and of the Pharisees were fasting”
      2.2.2. Think about it, ever been fasting when everyone else is feasting?
      2.2.2.1. Bummer time to fast!

2.3. (33) The question!
   2.3.1. Even today, Jesus & His ministry are misunderstood!

2.4. **The Problem:** “They’re having too much fun!”
   2.4.1. They would say, “Religion should be hard, rigid, rigorous, inflexible, stiff, strict, and mournful”
   2.4.2. Jewish customs weren’t wrong, but must be altered by His coming.
   2.4.3. It’s not austere & rigid duties of ceremonial Law. - It’s not stern & harsh requirements.
   2.4.4. **Q:** Does this describe your religion at all?
   2.4.5. **Q:** Have you ever caught yourself resenting other Christians being joyful?

2.5. (34) To the Pharisees religion was a funeral; but to Jesus it was a wedding!
   2.5.1. The figure of a Wedding in that day consisted of: Ceremonies, Merriment & Festivity lasting 7 days.
   2.5.2. The groom was treated like a king, & his bride like a queen.
      2.5.2.1. Guests were expected to enjoy themselves & thus add to the joy of the occasion!
      2.5.2.2. **Q:** Do you have a relative that at “any” family event they are having a doggie downer of a day?
      2.5.2.3. Not to show joy was an insult to the family giving the wedding!

2.6. Jesus disciples can’t fast because He was with them!
   2.6.1. It is actually inappropriate at a wedding!
   2.6.2. With Him in their midst, how could they be anything but joyful?
   2.6.3. **Q:** Are ascetic practices necessary to demonstrate our loyalty to Him?
   2.6.4. His presence called for a celebration, not mourning!
   2.6.5. **Q:** Do we get this? Do we really believe this?
      2.6.5.1. If you know the bridegroom, you’ll share His Joy! 😊

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1 Warren Wiersbe; Windows on the Parables; pg.36.
2.6.6. Rom.7:4 “Therefore, my brethren, you also have become dead to the law through the body of Christ, that you may be married to another—to Him who was raised from the dead.”

2.6.6.1. Married to Christ you experience: the joy of sins forgiven; the joy of answered prayer; the joy of fellowship; the joy of service; the joy of bringing forth fruit unto God; the joy of faith; the joy of doing good; the joy of giving hope to those who are in trouble.

2.7. (35) There will be plenty of time to fast later.

2.7.1. Fasting in OT: Only once commanded, only 1 time a year.
  2.7.1.1. Day of Atonement (Lev.23:27-32) “afflict your soul”.

2.7.2. Fasting in NT: Never commanded. But seems to be inferred we would.
  2.7.2.1. Jesus fasted; Jesus said, “when you fast”(inferring we would); Jesus fasted; Antioch church fasted before they sent out Paul & Bar.(Acts 13:2); Paul & Barn did as they appointed elders in every church(Acts14:23); Husbands & wives should if they are abstaining from each other(1 Cor.7); Paul said, “in fasting often”.

2.7.3. During the Captivity the Jews came up with more occasions to fast (Zech.7) The question they came up with: “Was it proper to continue a fast marking the destruction of the temple as our fathers have for the last 70 years…with this new one being built?”
  2.7.3.1. How easy to fall into the Self-imposed rather than the Scripturally-imposed!

2.7.4. Q: Are you asking, what is ceremonial protocol? Or, what is my deeper devotion to Jesus?

2.7.5. The pious Pharisees fasted twice each week! – Lk.18:12
  2.7.5.1. They obviously viewed fasting as a mark of special commitment & dedication.

2.7.6. Immature people require religious regulations to tell them what to do, & these help them to measure their “spiritual life”.
  2.7.6.1. Our relationship w/the Lord isn’t so much a matter of traditions & rules, as it is: Faith, Love, & a desire to Please Him!

2.7.7. One argued that, “if a guy dates a girl for 2 hours(& if God is more important to him), then he ought to spend more than 2 hours w/God or consider himself backslidden.”
  2.7.7.1. The problem with many such ever-so-spiritual-sounding statements is that they are of human manufacturing rather than heaven’s manufacturing.
  2.7.7.2. Let’s hold to the old Youth for Christ slogan: “Geared to the times, but anchored to the Rock”.

2.8. Its too bad the average person on the street sees such poor examples of Christian living that he thinks trusting Christ means the end of your enjoyment!
  2.8.1. He doesn’t realize that Jesus gives us “richly all things to enjoy!” 1 Tim.6:17
  2.8.1.1. [NIV] “who richly provides us with everything for our enjoyment”

2.9. Q: Is your fellowship with Christ a feast or a funeral?

2.10. Prayer: “Lord, help us not to have a religion of habit but a religion of the heart! Lord, turn some of our religious fasts into righteous feasts!”

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2 Leonard Ravenhill; Revival Praying; pg.71 (quoted in Jim Townsends book Minor Prophets)
2.11. **SPANDEX STRETCH PANTS!** (36)

2.12. **Problem:** If you patch old brittle garments with new cloth, the cloth will shrink when washed, & you will have a bigger tear than before.

2.13. **Q:** What happens when formal religion when counters the new life which Jesus brings?

2.13.1. Heb.10:9 “Here I (Jesus) am, I have come to do your will.” He sets aside the first to establish the second (Cov.).”

2.13.1.1. The two covenants are incompatible.
2.13.1.2. Jesus’ way simply can’t be “patched onto” Judaism like a piece of cloth.

2.13.2. And what made Judaism so inadequate to contain the new way of the gospel?

2.13.2.1. No longer pliable, can’t stretch.

2.13.3. **Q:** Are we ready for change? **Q:** Are you uncomfortable being comfortable yet?

2.13.4. **Q:** Are we like a brittle old cloth ready to rip; or as flexible as Spandex Stretch Pants?

2.13.5. Many churches today refuse anything new, & as a consequence lack Joy & Power that God has for them!

2.13.5.1. Other churches accept every new gimmick that comes along. (Big Diff.)

2.14. Jesus didn’t come to “patch” people’s lives, but to make them whole!

2.15. **Patches** are safe for a time, until the garment is washed! [Then it fell apart!]

2.15.1. Religion seems safe for a time, until...
2.15.2. It can patch up a few spots in your life, but it cannot give you new life that transforms.
2.15.3. The Pharisees wanting to be conservative became “preservative”! (www)
2.15.4. They had embalmed their traditions, & found themselves dead right!
2.15.5. Jesus wasn’t a conformer, nor a reformer, but a Transformer! (www)

2.16. **Q:** What’s your attitude toward change?

2.17. **BOTA BAG BELIEVERS!** (37-39)

2.18. **Problem:** If you put new wine into old brittle wineskins, the fermenting liquid will produce gas, & the skins will burst. [Thus, new wine required new skins]

2.19. The natural man likes his old ways. He likes his old wine, that is, his old religion.³

2.19.1. It’s problem? The old skin is not sufficiently pliable.

2.20. Jesus didn’t come to mix the old & the new, but to bring new life to all who trust Him!

2.20.1. Jesus shows that he represented a new phase in what God was doing on earth!
2.20.1.1. A new day has dawned!
2.20.2. Christ taught life must not be a mixture “you cannot serve two masters!”
2.20.2.1. Paul said, “to me to live is Christ!”
2.20.3. You can’t have 2 strings to your bow; You can’t trust in Christ & your works for salvation; You can’t mix Law & Grace; You can’t follow the world & Christ at the same time.⁴

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³ J. Vernon McGee
⁴ Lockyer; All the Parables of the Bible; pg.162
2.21. There must be an adaptation to new times, places, & circumstances.
   2.21.1. At Pentecost those mocking said, “They are full of new wine.”

2.22. New wine in an old wine skin is safe for a time, until fermentation.
   2.22.1. Religion seems safe for a time, until…

2.23. (39) The tragedy is some still say, “the old wine of the Law is better!” & do not want the
   new. [The book of Hebrews was written to explain how much better the new covenant faith is]⁵
   2.23.1. Something about us resists change!
   2.23.2. We need to long to see the wind of the Spirit blow in fresh transforming power.

2.24. Basically the Pharisees were saying, “Just give me some of that old time religion!...It’s
good enough for me!”
   2.24.1. It was good for our mothers. And it’s good enough for me.
   2.24.2. It was good for our fathers. And it’s good enough for me.
   2.24.3. It will do when I am dying. And it’s good enough for me.
   2.24.4. It will take us all to heaven. And it’s good enough for me.

2.25. Fermented Christianity!
   2.25.1. Maybe you say, “I’m new wine!” – Q: Are you still?
   2.25.1.1. Or, have you become old & fermented?
   2.25.1.2. Q: Do you crave a pattern/mold to your Christianity?
   2.25.2. Q: Are we as a movement new wine? Or, are we still living in our past?
   2.25.3. Q: Are we as a church new wine? Or, are we still living in our past?
   2.25.4. Q: Are we as individuals new wine? Or, are we still living in our past?
   2.25.5. My favorite question I read, Are you looking at the future in your rearview mirror??
   2.25.6. Here my heart: I crave a change. We can’t play church anymore. There’s more to
   our faith than this. There’s more to experiencing God. Being open to His Spirit & his
   leading. Discontent with the Christian status quo. It’s being desperate for God. It’s
   finding our Passion & releasing it. It’s an unleashed faith. It’s an untamed faith. It’s
   not settling with just a patch on my old life, but a complete makeover!
   It’s experiencing the new wine of Joy!!!

2.26. Weaving this altogether:

2.27. Jesus saw the feast in Levi’s house like a wedding-feast, which in a spiritual sense it was, seeing it celebrated Matthew’s union with Christ⁶
   2.27.1. Jesus died to place a New Garment of His righteousness on us.
   2.27.2. Jesus rose to give us the New Wine of the gospel, which must be placed in the New
   Wineskin of Grace, not into the old wineskin of the law.
   2.27.3. 2 Cor.5:17 “Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation;
   old things have passed away; behold, all things have become NEW.”

2.28. End: Like the wedding tradition that says, “Something old, something new, something
   borrowed, something blue!”
   2.28.1.1. In this section we had something old(old religion); something new(new life);
   but truly nothing borrowed(we own eternal life); nothing blue(only Joy!)

2.29. Q: What part will you play in bringing life to your church & to the lives of others?

⁵ Warren Wiersbe; Expository Outlines.
⁶ Lockyer; All the Parables of the Bible; pg.161