



Do not be Lukewarm

"And to the angel of the church in Laodicea write: The Amen, the faithful and true Witness, the Beginning of the creation of God, says this: "I know your deeds, that you are neither cold nor hot; I would that you were cold or hot. So because you are lukewarm, and neither hot nor cold, I will spit you out of My mouth. Because you say, "I am rich, and have become wealthy, and have need of nothing," and you do not know that you are wretched and miserable and poor and blind and naked. I advise you to buy from Me gold refined by fire, that you may become rich, and white garments, that you may clothe yourself, and that the shame of your nakedness may not be revealed; and eye salve to anoint your eyes, that you may see. Those whom I love, I reprove and discipline; be zealous therefore and repent. Behold I stand at the door and knock; if any one hears My voice and opens the door, I will come in to him, and will dine with him, and he with Me. He who overcomes, I will grant to him to sit down with Me on My throne, as I also overcame and sat down with My Father on His throne. He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches.'" (Rev.3:14-22).

The Lord calls Himself here the Amen - the One whose word will certainly be fulfilled. He is also the faithful and true Witness who tells the truth exactly as it is. He is also the Beginning (or the Author) of the creation of God. He is the One who created the first creation and He is the One Who began the new creation, through His death and resurrection – If any man/woman be in Christ, he/she is a new creation (2 Cor. 5:17). "He is BEFORE all things" (Col.1:17) - the Author of everything visible and invisible, the Beginning and the End.

Here is a church that did not have any Jezebels or false teachings in it. They were neither immoral nor evil. But they were not on fire for God either. They were just plain "lukewarm" (v.16). They were dead right in their doctrines - but they were both dead and right! They were morally respectable - and spiritually dead!

The Lord wants our hearts to be on fire at all times - aflame with a fervent love for Him and for other believers.

"Fire shall be kept burning continually on the altar; it is not to go out", was the old-covenant Law (Lev.6:13).

Symbolically we see here what God expects the normal state of the true disciple of Jesus to be. Anything less than this is sub- standard. When the burning bush was aflame with the fire of the Lord, no insects or germs could survive within it. And when our hearts are aflame with the fire of the Spirit, no unloving attitudes can survive therein either.

This is one way by which we can test whether we are hot, cold or lukewarm: To be "hot" is to love others

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The Power of Humble Service and Music (Cont...d)

fervently. To be "cold" is to be bitter and unforgiving towards others. To be "lukewarm" is to have neither bitterness nor love towards others.

When a believer says, "I have nothing in my heart against anyone", he is lukewarm. Did Jesus say, "All men will know that you are my disciples when you have nothing in your hearts against each other"? No. The absence of evil attitudes towards each other is NOT the identifying mark of the disciples of Jesus (cf. Jn.13:35).

We must have something in our hearts. We must have fervent love for all our fellow-believers. Love is a positive virtue and not just the absence of evil.

To cast out the spirit of bitterness from our heart and then to leave it cleansed and empty is the surest way to be lukewarm and to finally end up in a worse state than at the beginning (Lk.11:24-26).

The world says, "Something is better than nothing". If so, then one would think that it is better to be lukewarm than cold. But that is not what the Lord says. He says, "I would that you were cold" (v.15). He would rather see us totally worldly than half-hearted.

The lukewarm, compromising Christian does a lot more damage to the cause of Christ on earth than the worldly unbeliever. The unbeliever does not take the name of Christ, and so his worldliness cannot be a hindrance to the gospel. But a compromising, half- hearted Christian takes the name of Christ and disgraces that Name among the heathen by his worldliness.

The cold, worldly unbeliever is also far more likely to come to an awareness of his spiritual need than the lukewarm, self-righteous Pharisee (See Mt.21:31).

It is for these reasons that the Lord says that He would rather see us cold than lukewarm.

In practical terms this means that if you have no longing to be free from the love of money or from anger and impure thoughts (to take just three areas of sin), it would be better if you remained an unbeliever than one claiming to be a disciple of Jesus. There is more hope for you if you are cold than if you are lukewarm. This is amazing, but true.

If you'd like to write an article for the newsletter, email your entries to tomleti@yahoo.com

SEPTEMBER 2014

| Sun | Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat |
|--|-----|---|---------------------------------|---------------------------------------|--|---|
| | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 Meeting at Church at 7 pm |
| 7 Sunday School 8:45AM & Worship at 9:45pm | 8 | 9 Women's Fellowship at Church at 7pm | 10 Meeting at Church at 7 pm | 11 | 12 Youth Bible Study at 7:30 pm | 13 Meeting at Church at 7 pm |
| 14 Sunday School 8:45AM & Worship at 9:45pm EPC Austin Meeting | 15 | 16 | 17 Meeting at Church at 7 pm | 18 | 19 Fasting and Prayer at 10 am Youth Bible Study at 7:30 | 20 Meeting at Church at 7 pm |
| 21 Sunday School 8:45AM & Worship at 9:45pm | 22 | 23 Women's Fellowship at Church at 7pm | 24 | 25 Fasting and Prayer at 7 pm—9 pm | 26 Fasting and Prayer at 10 am-8:30pm | 27 Fasting and Prayer at 10 am-8:30pm pm |
| 28 Sunday School 8:45AM & Worship at 9:45pm EPC Austin Meeting | 29 | 30 | | | | |
| | | | | | | |

Scheduled events might change, visit epchouston.org for weekly updates.

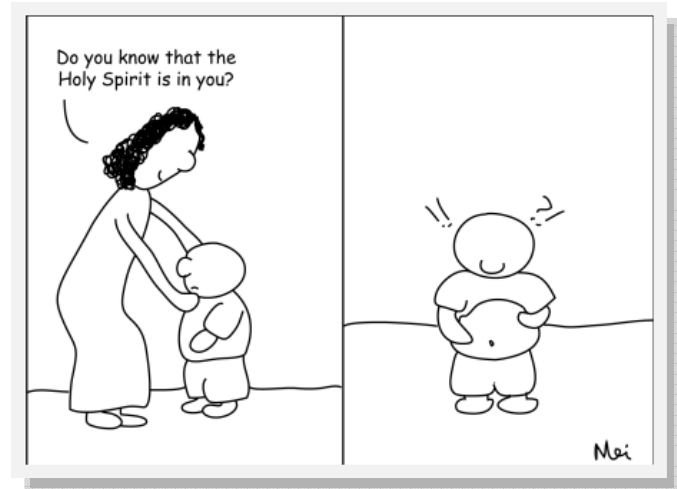
THOU SHALT LAUGH!

Secret of a Long Life

Grandpa Jones was celebrating his 100th birthday and everybody complimented him on how athletic and well-preserved he appeared. "Gentlemen, I will tell you the secret of my success," he cackled. "I have been in the open air day after day for some 75 years now."

The celebrants were impressed and asked how he managed to keep up his rigorous fitness regime.

"Well, you see my wife and I were married 75 years ago. On our wedding night, we made a solemn pledge. Whenever we had a fight, the one who was proved wrong would go outside and take a walk."



25 Most Important People in the Bible

16. **Gabriel** This great angel appears to the prophet Daniel and then later to Mary, the mother of Jesus, and also to Zechariah, the father of John the Baptist. . Michael is another angel mentioned by name in the Bible.

15. **Elijah**, the great prophet who stared down an entire nation and didn't blink. After King David, Israel split into two nations. The northern kingdom went from bad to worse until they were ruled by a truly depraved couple, King Ahab and Queen Jezebel. Elijah walks onto the scene and announces that rain won't fall without his own personal okay. Then he disappears. For the next three years a bone-dry nation searches for Elijah, but he's nowhere to be found, until one day he shows up again and offers a showdown on Mount Carmel: your god vs. my God. Keep reading and you'll learn about Elisha, Elijah's successor who did almost everything Elijah did, only twice as much.

EPC PRAYER LINE : MON, TUE & THUEPC PRAYER
LINE : MON, TUE & THURS (6:30 AM to 8:00 AM).

Phone No. (218) 548-8396

Access Code : 6306#RS (6:30 AM to 8:00 AM).

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...so that we may present everyone perfect in Jesus Christ. Col. 1:28