

## Are You Passionate or Lukewarm?

Lukewarmness is a slow & subtle killer of relationships. Like a spouse who has lost passion for the intimacy of marriage & yet is happy & content with its lukewarm state while the other spouse still longs for the affection of their first love- God also sees our hearts & knows if we want Him & love Him with all our heart or if we are just doing our “weekly duty!”

In Rev. 2 & 3 God says to Christians “Return to your first love” & do the things you did at first. God wants us to be on fire for Him, like newlyweds for each other. But interestingly, He’d rather us be **cold** toward Him than lukewarm! So even if you are “cold” towards God, please read on- at least you’re being honest. God says that’s better than being “meh”- apathetic!

The Bible says that marriage is an earthly example of the relationship between Christ & believers. Both are meant to be **PASSIONATELY** in love with each other- being “made one” together- marriage in an earthly sense, & true religion as a spiritual union with God. When marriage or faith lacks that passion & “oneness” then depression, disappointment & divorce are often the result. **How do we escape “lukewarmness”** in religion & in marriage? We’ve been told we must “learn to love ourselves before we can love others” but in reality, we already love ourselves too much! But God has a way to fix this selfishness! God created us to know, love & respect Him as our heavenly Father. Before we can forgive & love others selflessly we have to first love our Creator above all else. Luke 10:27...“You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart,... soul,... strength &... mind, & your neighbor as yourself.” Humility recognizes we’ve all failed miserably at that. If you’re not sure...

Jesus said, “If you love me, keep my commandments. Have you kept them? Matt. 5:19-48 describes how breaking God’s law is not just what you “do” but it is a matter of the heart... • Have you ever hated anyone? The Bible reveals that hate is like murder, it’s where it starts! • God made the fulfillment & joy of sex for the safety & permanency of marriage. Jesus said, “Whoever looks upon a woman to lust after her has already committed adultery with her in his heart.” Have you ever lusted? Then you are an adulterer at heart. • Have you ever stolen something, no matter how small? • Have you ever told a lie, even if you call it “a white lie?” A good judge does not randomly forgive criminals, even in our human nature we recognize the need for justice when a crime is committed.

The Bible says murderers, thieves, adulterers & even liars cannot enter the Kingdom of God. In 1 Tim. 5:24 “Some men’s sins are clearly evident, preceding them to judgment, but those of some men follow later.” Heb. 4:13 “...there is no creature hidden from His sight, but all things are naked & open to the eyes of Him to whom we must give account.” Listen to your conscience. God’s Law leaves us all sinners in His sight. On Judgment Day we will be found guilty & end up in Hell forever, unless the judgment against us can be satisfied.

Because Jesus paid our fine on the Cross 2,000 years ago, God can forgive us. The Bible says "God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us" to take the punishment for OUR sins “that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish but have everlasting life!” “(Jesus) Himself bore our sins in His own body on the cross, that we, having died to sins, might live for righteousness- by whose stripes (beatings) you were healed. “For He made Him who knew no sin to be sin for us, that we might

become the righteousness of God in Him.”

The Bible teaches that when Jesus rose from the dead & defeated the power of sin & the grave, the believer’s lukewarmness, sin & selfishness was crucified with Christ & in union with Him, in His resurrection, we also have new life & a new heart so we can love God & others, as God originally intended.

Acts 3:19 "Repent therefore & be converted, that **your** sins may be blotted out, so that times of refreshing may come from the presence of the Lord." James 4:8 “Draw near to God & He will draw near to you. Cleanse your hands, you sinners; & purify your hearts, you double-minded.” Rom 10:9-10- “...if you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus & believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved. For with the heart one believes unto righteousness & with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.”

To the “Christian”: You should “Examine yourselves as to whether you are in the faith.” 2 Cor.13:5 Test yourself. Are you loving God with ALL your heart? The whole world quotes Matthew 7:1 “Judge not” but God will judge our sin! Paul wrote to Christians “God is not mocked” in Gal.6:7. Many think they are safe from that judgment but these scriptures tell us there are many hypocrites (pretenders) & whether it’s a false convert or a backslider doesn’t matter, many who think they are saved will end up in hell. Don’t be one of them.

Please, carefully & soberly read the whole chapter of Matthew 7, not just the first 2 words. Also please read Romans 6:1,2; 1 John 3:18-24; 1 John 1:6-10: Confess your sins & He will forgive you, but only if you confess them. James 2- Prove your faith through your works, not to earn salvation, but to demonstrate that God’s grace works in you. It is not just “trying hard” but it is God’s grace *supernaturally* producing holiness & good works in your life. Matt. 13:24-43, There are many who look like Christians who grow up right alongside those that truly have faith & good fruit, but one day judgment will come & that which is hidden will be revealed.

**So be real** with God, & with your spouse. Please read this together & embrace the forgiveness found in the cross of Christ that removes the barrier of sin & judgment, so you can passionately love God & be in “right” relationship with Him. Only then can you fully forgive & create a healthy marriage- full of selfless, passionate love for each other. So please, for your marriage & for your very soul, receive His free grace, & give yourself fully to Him who gave Himself fully for you.

If you believe & trust in Jesus Christ, it is critical that you find friends who believe & obey the truths shared in this letter- then spend time together, learn & grow to be like Christ.

There is no greater love than to give your life for another, even as Jesus did for us... If you saw a minivan crash into a lake, you’d be horrified- Should you help? The van’s near the shore but it’s dangerous & could cost your life. Suddenly, you can hear the muffled cries of a baby & you plunge in! You don’t really know what you’re doing but still you frantically search for them because salvation is so near for this family- if only you can get them through the door...

Many are the muffled cries of crashed lives, drowning in sin, yet some are so very near the shore. It’s well worth the risk, plunge in- tell others about His forgiveness & sacrifice; your skill is not as critical as your willingness- they need to find Jesus, the door into faith, hope, forgiveness & eternal life.

For more depth & info: [www.theJudgment.US](http://www.theJudgment.US)