

Quasi Christian-Lukewarm

Tonight, we wrap up our Quasi-Christian series!

If you recall, night one we talked about having a Borrowed Faith. How you can't inherit your faith no matter how "Christian" your family or surroundings are. True faith must be your own.

Week 2 we talked about the Mix and Match game that we often play where who choose the passages of scripture or the things about God/Jesus that we like and agree with and overlook the tough parts. Whether we agree, disagree, like, dislike, are comfortable with, or not, the Word of God tells us that it's a package deal, all or nothing. A true Christian must accept all of God's Word as truth and apply it to our lives.

It's only fitting that we close out this series talking about a real-life example of a group of Quasi Christians.

We are starting in the Book of Revelation. This book was written by John, not John the Baptist, but John the Apostle, same guy who wrote the Gospel of John and 1,2,3 John. In this book he is sharing a vision that God had given him concerning the "unveiling" of Jesus Christ, referring to the Second Coming. This vision is directly from Jesus. He is speaking to John. However, He doesn't begin with the prophecy of the Second Coming, He first wants to address the current Christian climate, if you will. He begins to dictate letters for John to relay to the seven prominent churches in the area of Asia. These letters start in chapter 2 and continue through chapter 3. We are going to be looking at the letter to the 7th church, the church at Laodicea. Up to this point, Jesus has sent some words of encouragement to these churches. Some have also received some pretty straight forward areas of improvement. But now we get to the last church and Jesus really has nothing good to say to this group of believers. Let's jump right into this (letter from Jesus example) ...

Revelation 3:15-17 ¹⁵ I know your works, that you are neither cold nor hot. I wish you were cold or hot. ¹⁶ So then, because you are lukewarm, and neither cold nor hot, I will spit you out of My mouth. ¹⁷ For you say, 'I am rich, and have stored up goods, and have need of nothing,' yet do not realize that you are wretched, miserable, poor, blind, and naked.

How many of you drink coffee? So, cold coffee is good! Hot coffee is good! Lukewarm or room temp coffee...ewww! It literally turns your stomach. You have a hard time swallowing it.

These people were the exact definition of Quasi Christians (definition #2). We can assume they were saved since Jesus is addressing a church, a body of believers. However, they were not living like Christians in any way. They had become so self-reliant that they stopped depending on God for anything. If we get to this point, who becomes our God? We do! What was God's first commandment to His people? You shall have no other gods before me! What did Jesus say is the most important commandment? Love the Lord your God with all your heart, soul, and mind. Does this sound like what the church of Laodicea was doing?

So how do we keep from becoming just like them, a Christian that makes Jesus want to throw up?

We are going to talk about 5 ways today:

1. God Over People—we must purposefully choose to please God over anyone else, family included.
 - a. Luke 6:26
 - b. Acts 5:29
 - c. Galatians 1:10
2. Good and Bad—We are to go to God in the good AND bad times, not just the bad.
 - a. 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18

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- b. Philippians 4:4-8
- 3. Not the Same—this world is not our home, our citizenship is in heaven, we should act accordingly.
 - a. Romans 12:2—if going to church is the only thing that is different between you and the rest of the world, that is not living the Christian life God intended for you
 - b. 1 John 2:15
 - c. James 4:4
- 4. Until It Hurts—we are to give of ourselves and our resources until it becomes a sacrifice
 - a. 2 Corinthians 9:7
 - b. 2 Corinthians 8:12
 - c. Luke 12:48b
 - d. Romans 12:1
 - e. Psalm 24:1—we need to recognize that all is God's, not ours
- 5. And Lord—Jesus should not only be our Savior but the ruler (the boss) of our life
 - a. Acts 2:36
 - b. Luke 6:46
 - c. Romans 10:9—a lot of people want just enough Jesus to be saved, get their ticket to heaven, and call it a day, nothing more---This is not the attitude of a true Christ follower.
 - d. Philippians 2:9-11

So back to the letter Jesus is dictating to John for the church at Laodicea...

He has some pretty harsh words for this group of believers, words I would never want aimed at me.

I think if we are honest, we have all been in this place at some point in our walk. I want you to understand, yes, this letter was addressed to a real church in a real place at a real point in time but this letter is also addressed to us! All seven of these letters, dealing with real problems, real people, and real churches, are addressed to us as part of God's Word.

However, Jesus follows these harsh words with a priority check and then an invitation.

This invitation is to repent, come back to Him, and enjoy the blessings of a close relationship with your Creator.

This invitation is for you as well. If you have a relationship with Christ, you've believed on Him, put your faith and trust in Him, maybe even followed up with baptism but you're just not the kind of person to go overboard about Jesus...you are fine saying you're a Christian but if it really becomes tough, you have to stand up for something unpopular, you are at risk of someone not liking you, it might affect your job, relationships, the kind of life you are used to...you'll just kind of keep that Christian stuff on the down low, right? If you really feel good about your life right now, no real need for Jesus just yet, things are pretty good but I know I got Him on the backburner just in case? If Jesus is your backup plan? If you are a Quasi Christian...which is exactly what the church of Laodicea was full off?

Then listen to me here...you make Jesus want to throw up! When I choose my own way instead of His...I make Him sick to His stomach!

Don't be "that" Christian...don't be a Quasi Christian.