

ARE WE MAKING GOD SICK?

The Church at Laodicea

Reference: **Revelation 3:14-19**

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The Seven Churches of Revelation:

- Ephesus (**Revelation 2:1-7**) - the church that had forsaken its first love (**2:4**).
- Smyrna (**Revelation 2:8-11**) - the church that would suffer persecution (**2:10**).
- Pergamum (**Revelation 2:12-17**) - the church that was tolerating sin and needed to repent (**2:16**).
- Thyatira (**Revelation 2:18-29**) - the church that had accepted false teaching (**2:20**).
- Sardis (**Revelation 3:1-6**) - the church that had fallen asleep (**3:2**).
- Philadelphia (**Revelation 3:7-13**) - the church that had endured patiently (**3:10**).
- _____ (**Revelation 3:14-22**) - the church with the lukewarm faith (3:16).

Question: Where did this letter come from?

Answer: _____ wrote this letter through the Apostle John acting as a scribe.

Reference: **Revelation 3:14** (see screen)

Jesus identifies Himself as the originator of this letter through three declarations:

1. The _____ – This word in Hebrew means truth.
2. The Faithful and True _____
3. The _____ of the Creation of God

COMMENDATION: _____

CONDEMNATION: They are _____.

Reference: **Revelation 3:15-16** (see screen)

Interpretation 1:

Cold means _____ - _____

Lukewarm means professing to be a Christian but _____ an authentic believer

Hot means a _____

Interpretation 2: (Bryan's accepted interpretation)

Cold means a _____-_____ Christian

Hot means a _____-_____ Christian

Lukewarm means a _____-_____ Christian

Question: Why did Jesus say the church is lukewarm?

Answer: Reference: **Revelation 3:17**

1. *'I am rich'* – _____
2. *'I have become wealthy'* – _____ - _____
3. *'I have need of nothing'* – _____
4. *'and do not know that you are wretched, miserable, poor, blind and naked'* – _____

COUNSEL:

Reference: **Revelation 3:18** (see screen)

- *"Buy from Me gold refined in the fire"* Gold is referring to genuine _____.

Reference: **1Peter 1:7**

- *"white garments"* White garments are referring to someone's _____.
- *"eye salve"* Eye salve was a metaphor to indicate that they needed spiritual _____ for spiritual blindness.

CHALLENGE:

Reference: **Revelation 3:19** (see screen)

Three things to note in this final verse:

1. *'I rebuke'* – The term rebuke means to _____.
2. *'and chasten'* – The term chasten means to _____.
3. *'be zealous and repent'* – Zealous means to be enthusiastic and _____ to repent. To repent means to have a _____ of mind which will result in a change in character.

A person might be a lukewarm Christian if:

1. They do not really want to be saved from their sin; they want only to be saved from the penalty of their sin. They don't genuinely hate sin and are not truly sorry for it; they're merely sorry because God is going to punish them.
2. They are moved by stories of people who do radical things for Christ, yet they do not act. They assume such action is for "extreme" Christians, not average ones.
3. They rarely share their faith with their neighbors, coworkers, or friends. They do not want to be rejected, nor do they want to make people uncomfortable by talking about private issues like religion.
4. They gauge their morality or "goodness" by comparing themselves to the secular world. They feel satisfied that while they are not as hard-core for Jesus as so-and-so, they are nowhere as horrible as the guy down the street.
5. They say they love Jesus, and He is, indeed, a part of their lives, their money, and their thoughts, but He isn't allowed to control their lives. They do not love Him with all their heart, soul, and strength. That sort of total devotion is not really possible for the average person; it's only for pastors and missionaries and radicals.
6. They feel secure because they attend church, made a profession of faith, were baptized, come from a Christian family, vote Republican, or live in America.
7. They do not live by faith; their lives are structured so they never have to. They don't have to trust God if something unexpected happens- they have their savings account.
8. They are not very different than your typical non-believer. They equate their partially sanitized lives with holiness.