

The Church of Laodicea

Revelation 3:14-20

I. The Lukewarm Church

A. The Laodicean Church

1. It's lukewarm because spiritually the church was neither hot nor cold, but indifferent.
2. It showed no interest, concern, enthusiasm, or care for things of God.
3. It didn't deny Jesus, which would be cold. But neither did it embrace spiritual growth and service to our Lord, which would be hot.
4. No Commendation: It's the only 1 of the 7 that received no commendation from Jesus.

II. Introduction (Revelation 3:14)

- *To each church Jesus gave an introduction suiting that church's spiritual condition.*

A. Jesus identified Himself 3 ways:

1. – He is the Amen.
 - a. The word "amen" is often spoken or written at the end of a solemn statement.
 - b. It is a word that confirms the absolute truth of what has been said or written.
 - c. Jesus is the "Amen" because He speaks only truth. Jesus is the truth.
 - d. Application: Heed Jesus' warnings & promises because they are the absolute truth.
2. – Faithful and true witness
 - a. Jesus is the true witness of all God the Father wants us to know about Him.
 - b. Jesus said if we have seen Him, we have seen the Father.
3. – The beginning of the creation of God
 - a. This does not mean Jesus was created, that is false doctrine.
 - b. This means Jesus is the originator of creation.
 - c. Jesus is not only creator of physical universe; He's also creator of God's new order.
 - d. Jesus is the one who redeemed us by His own blood and founded the church.
 - e. It's the kingdom of Jesus that will come one day. He will make a new heaven & new earth that has never been touched by sin.

III. Rebuke (Revelation 3:15-16)

- *After the introduction Jesus moved to the rebuke.*

A. Jesus hates indifference.

1. He hates indifference among His saints. It leads to a powerless & empty testimony.
2. Church of Laodicea's problem was a lack of evangelistic testimony in the community.
3. Because this church was indifferent, it had lost its testimony for Jesus.
4. They looked and lived so much like the world that no one could tell the difference.
5. Jesus' Response: The condition of this church made Jesus sick!
6. Application: 21st century church is losing its relevance due to compromised testimony.
7. 21st century church has learned how to fit into the world so as to not seem so different.

IV. The Church Was Blind. (Revelation 3:17-18)

A. Blind to the truth

1. Laodicea was so wealthy that when an earthquake destroyed it in AD 61, they rebuilt it without financial aid from Rome, but pride & self-sufficiency infected church spiritually.

2. The church thought it was wealthy in both material & spiritual things; however, Jesus evaluated them and said they were “**wretched, miserable, poor, blind, and naked.**”

B. Admonition

- *Jesus admonished this church to do three things:*

1. – Buy from Me refined gold.

- a. This refined gold Jesus speaks of is faith, for them to turn from pagan dependence on material wealth & trust Him. Many in the church needed to be saved.
- b. All would be lost unless they came to Him by faith and were saved.

2. – White raiment

- a. This white raiment represents a life of faith. When we are truly saved by faith in Jesus, we begin this life-long sanctification process whereby we live out our faith.

3. – Eye salve

- a. Jesus was the only one who could open their eyes to their true spiritual depravity.

V. Jesus’ motive is love. (Revelation 3:19)

A. Discipline out of love.

1. Jesus said it is those who are dearest to Him that He corrects and chastens.
2. It’s because Jesus loves us He does not allow us to continue in our sin. (**Prov. 3:12**)
3. We correct & train our children in the way they should go because we love them.
4. Likewise we who are saved are loved by God & are precious to Him.
5. Jesus reminded this church that He loved them, even in their sinful condition.

B. Be zealous and repent.

1. Conviction and chastening should lead to genuine repentance. (Over our sin)
2. Warning: Final act of judgment from God is that He turns a person over to their sin.

VI. Invitation (Revelation 3:20)

A. Two Applications

1. – The door of the church

- a. Many churches have same problem as the church of Laodicea. They’re w/out Jesus.
- b. Many groups gather under the Christian flag, but are just a religious social group.
- c. Many local churches think they’re rich & safe while they are poor, wretched, naked, and blind. Jesus stands at the door of these churches and knocks.
- d. If they would repent of their sin & invite Him in, He would come in & bring true spiritual life to that local fellowship. Jesus loves His church.

2. – The door of our hearts

- a. Jesus seeks out the lost so they might be saved.
- b. Jesus stands at the door of our heart and knocks so we might let Him in.
- c. **IMPORTANT:** Both the sovereignty of God and man’s free will is portrayed.
 - (1) God seeks out lost people.
 - i. No one could be saved unless God comes to us first.
 - ii. By convicting power of the H. S. we understand we’re lost & need to be saved.
 - iii. Jesus knocking on the door alerts us He desires to come in and save us.
 - (2) We must open the door.
 - i. Jesus will not force His way into our hearts.
 - ii. We must be willing to confess our sin, repent of our sin, & ask Jesus to save us.