

REVELATION

Laodicea – You are Lukewarm

Icebreaker

Is there a food that the moment you taste it, you immediately spit it out? What is it and why do you hate it so much?

Main Idea

Apathy is not an option for Christians. Jesus offers us the opportunity to be in a relationship with him and to be transformed.

Discuss

1. Consider the four descriptions Jesus gives of himself in verse 14:
 - a. "the Amen" (source of truth) [see John 14:6]
 - b. "Faithful Witness" (devoted to his relationship with us)
 - c. "True Witness" (speaks or points out truth)
 - d. "Beginning of God's creation" (source of creation or preeminent over creation)

Which of these titles is most comforting or encouraging? Why?

In the other letters of Revelation, we have seen that Jesus' description of himself often addressed a need in the church receiving the letter or offers comfort to the church. **What could be a reason that Jesus points out he is a Faithful and True witness?**

2. The city of Laodicea did not have its own water source; water was piped in from miles away. Nearby Colossae had cold refreshing water for drinking, while Hieropolis had hot springs that soothed and healed. **Why do you think Jesus condemns the church in Laodicea for being "neither hot nor cold?" Do you think this church had any impact or influence in the city?**
3. Jesus made the following assessment of the church in Laodicea:

Laodicea's self-assessment:	Jesus' assessment:
Think	Blind
Rich	Wretched, Poor
Prosperous	Pitiable
Need nothing	Naked



Which is more dangerous, being completely ignorant of your true condition and thinking you are fine, or knowing your exact situation but choosing to do the wrong thing anyway? Why?

4. Read 1 Timothy 6:10. **Do you think the prosperity (wealth) of the church of Laodicea helped them or hurt them as a church?**
5. Jesus offered 3 "cures" to the ills of the church in Laodicea: refined gold, white garments, and eye salve. **Why do you think Jesus used the picture of "buying" these cures instead of another word like "seek" or "receive" or "desire" the cures?** [Remember the community and the major businesses that take place there.]
6. Think back to when you were growing up. Did a parent or grandparent say, just before giving you a spanking, "This is going to hurt me more than it will you." **Did you ever believe them? Why or why not? Do you now understand why they said that?**
7. Read Proverbs 12:1; Proverbs 13:24; and Hebrews 12:6. **Why is discipline important for every person, but especially Christians?**
8. Read John 14:23. **How does love and obedience tie in with Revelation 3:20?** Read John 14:15 and John 15:10. **Is it possible to have a relationship with Jesus and not obey him? Why or why not?**

Next Steps

These seven letters were addressed to a specific church, but they were intended to be read to the other 6 churches to help teach, reprove, correct, and/or train all of the churches. We should prayerfully consider what we should learn as a church from these 7 letters.

Here is a "homework" assignment for you this week. If Jesus were to write a letter to the Family Church, what do you think he would tell us as a church? Remember the pattern:

Jesus revealed one or more aspects of his character/nature, commend the church's strengths, condemn the church's failures, call the church to repentance, encourage the church to endure, and end with a call to action for the conquerors that will be rewarded.

