

Lukewarm Christians (part four)

Revelation 3:14-16

The characteristics that we have covered and will cover are not an all-inclusive definition of what it means to be a Christian, nor is it intended to be used as ammo to judge others' salvation. Rather, as 2 Corinthians 13:5 says, it is a call to "examine yourselves, whether ye be in the faith; prove your own selves."

Somehow this realization does not cross over to our thinking about the Christian life. Jesus didn't say if you wanted to follow Him you could do it in a lukewarm manner. He said, "Take up your cross and follow Me."

12. Lukewarm Christians love God, but they do not love Him with _____ .
 - They would say that they try to love Him that much, but that kind of devotion isn't possible for the average person; it's only for Bible characters (Matthew 22:37-38).

13. Lukewarm Christians love others, but do not seek to love others as much _____ .
 - Their love of others is typically focused on those that love them in return, like family and friends (Luke 14:12-14).
 - There is little left over for those who cannot love them back, much less those that hurt them.
 - Their love is very selective and conditional, normally with strings attached (Matt. 5:43-47).

14. Lukewarm Christians do what is necessary to keep from feeling _____ .
 - They have the "good enough" mentality. They ask, "How far can I go before it's a sin?" instead of "How can I keep myself from grieving the Holy Spirit that lives inside me?"
 - They ask, "How much do I have to give?" instead of "How much can I give to help?"
 - They ask, "How much time should I spend praying and reading my Bible?" instead of "I wish I could sit here and read longer!" (1 Chronicles 29:14, Matthew 13:44-46)

15. Lukewarm Christians are consumed with playing it safe' they are slaves to the _____ .
 - This focus on playing it safe keeps them on sacrificing and taking steps of faith for God (Matthew 10:28:, 2 Timothy 6:17-18).

16. Lukewarm Christians feel _____ because they attend church, said a prayer as a child, were baptized, or come from a Christian family.
 - Just as the O.T. prophets warned the Israelites that they were not safe because they lived in the land of Israel, we are not safe just because we wear the label of Christian (Matthew 7:21).

