

## To The Church Of Laodicea

By; Rob Perez

Revelation 3: 14-16

To be told (since you or a church is neither hot nor cold but lukewarm) that the Lord wants to vomit you out of His mouth is a pretty heavy duty statement.. Wouldn't you agree?

To be considered vomit out of the mouth of the Lord our God is something that I think needs to be fully dealt with in the life of any individual that calls themselves a Christian and any group of individuals that gather in a place they call a church.

Are you only worth vomit? Is the church you attend worth nothing more than vomit?

Has anyone ever asked you these questions before? In today's (Joel Osteen) comfy cozy culture I bet not.

To me a lukewarm Christian or church is one that only does the bare minimum, has no desire to grow and reach for more of what the Holy Spirit desires and deals with none of the judgment aspects of God's divine nature.

Furthermore, a lukewarm church isn't open to true outreach, spends no real time developing disciples and if it tried nobody would sign up anyway and the calls to service would just go to ignore mode.

Jesus did say that the "workers are few"... maybe He knew a little something about the nature of true devoted worship and just how few folks would ever really make being a "worker" a real priority in their lives.

Typical Christians say this in response...

Hey man... I go to church every Sunday and put some money in the collection plate.

I say... SO WHAT !!!!

If that's the answer you would give as well then I must challenge why your initial response wasn't more in line with the real matter at hand... your heart, your mind, your strength, your soul. How easy it is to be seen sitting in a pew every Sunday? I really wouldn't consider that work..The person sitting right next to you for the last habitual 15 years could be on a one way trip to hell if they didn't give their heart, mind, soul and strength to the Lord. So who gives a flippin yardstick about your butt being in a pew each week... where is your heart, mind, soul & strength aligned?

Worship is about what you give... have you given your heart, mind, soul & strength to the Lord?

All of you? Not a slice of you,,but all of you?

This where I separate authentic Christianity from synthetic Christianity.

Synthetic Christians make excuses for why there are no consistent works accompanying their faith. They may sit in a pew every Sunday but the following Monday through Saturday you couldn't tell them apart from any other person walking around. Oh my they have deadlines at work, grass to cut, 700,000 activities that the kids desperately need to be involved in, they are tired, they devote no time to reading and coming to grips with God's word, they can't miss a Steelers game, cant miss a favorite TV show, on and on and on it goes.

Other well known traits of synthetic Christians are:

1. They are self-centered. They are fixated and focused on themselves.
2. They are self-asserting. Their speech is filled with "I desire," "I want," "I this," "I that."
3. They are always defending themselves and condemning others.
4. They are self-indulgent.
5. They are self-pleasing. The Bible says in Romans 15 we must please God and please others. It doesn't say one thing about pleasing ourselves. But these people are self-pleasing.
6. They are self-seeking, always looking out for Number One.
7. They are self-sensitive. They will come to church and sit, all the while judging everything they hear.
8. They are easily wounded. They just collapse when someone rebukes them.
9. They are self-defensive.
10. They are self-sufficient.
11. They are self-conscious rather than God-conscious.
12. They are spiritually lazy.

WOW.... what a list huh?

Being that we are all sinners, we may suffer from one or more of these sinful attributes from time to time... after all, we are still works in progress and we will fall to sin again and again. But my point here is to address those folks that display these characteristics on a regular unrepentive type basis. These folks are NOT authentic Christians.

Authentic Christians according to God's word worship God in total truth and discipleship. And Jesus said that "if you are my disciple you will know the truth" (John 8:31-32)

To be a disciple is to continue learning and growing in the teachings of Jesus... after a time, once you have had a good foundation of knowledge learned and the beginnings of spiritual wisdom start to take hold... what then should you be doing?

Well, if you read your bible it says to follow Him and take up your cross and go spread the good news of salvation. Are you confused about any of that? Seems pretty cut and dry to me. It certainly doesn't mean to plop yer butt in a pew for a whole whopping hour every Sunday and call it a day.

The natural by-products of Authentic Christianity will create a re-generation of your will, your mind and your heart/emotions. You will no longer think in terms of planning around pro football games to serve God. You will prioritize your time and the time your children spend finding ways to be of service to God. It will be a natural joyous response to desire God front and center as the number one priority in your life. Number one in how you handle your finances. Number one in the amount of time you and your family tithe engaging in the act of outreach and discipleship. Number one in seeking and identifying ways to use your God given talents to praise and glorify Him.

The Laodicean church had money and wealth... they figured all was good. They were fat and happy, uninspired, lazy, complacent followers of Christ. They weren't on fire for the Lord nor were they completely dead.... does this sound vomitously familiar?

If so, you better put on some rain gear and start holding your nose....