

Introduction

What is eternal life?

- Living eternally
- Going to heaven
- Being saved, redeemed
- Being in the kingdom of God

All good answers but all wrong answers. Let's listen to Jesus on this

*"Now **this is eternal life: that they may know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom you have sent.**" John 17:3, NIV.*

Of all the things Jesus could have said He chose to say that Eternal Life is **knowing** (having a relationship with) **God and Jesus**

Unsettling realization - As we have looked at the crazy love of God for each of us, there is this **unsettling realization** that we have been getting the kingdom of God wrong in some very important ways.

Return - We have got to return to the challenge of Restoration heritage and begin changing our approach to the kingdom to be more in line with God's will.

In other words. We have got to give the kingdom back to God. We have got to give the church back to Christ. We have got to get our hearts in tune with the Holy Spirit who is within each of us.

1. The Kingdom Until Now For You –

Up until now you probably dealt with being in the kingdom of God in some of these ways

1. Obeyed the gospel – It was a new birth but you became stuck with being a baby
2. Punched the time clock – The practice of doing the minimum to stay in the kingdom.
3. Maintained "member in good standing" status with a church - This is where "churchianity" replaced Christianity. Didn't get overly excited about anything but didn't get overly negative about anything. Maintained a status quo.
4. Saw things like reading your Bible, helping people, going to worship assemblies, giving money, doing the right thing as your "duty".
5. Saw you membership in the kingdom of God as based on your beliefs more than your actions.

2. God's Crazy Love Won't Let You Live Like That

Consider the reaction of the first disciples of Jesus.

*"42 They **devoted themselves** to the apostles' teaching and to the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer." Acts 2:42, NIV.*

Devoted – I am a devoted Lakers fan. Where ever I am I try to watch every game. I go to a lot of trouble to keep up to date on them. I will ever pay money to go to some of their games and if you want to take me to a game then everything gets dropped so I can go.

*"40 His speech persuaded them. They called the apostles in and had them flogged. Then they **ordered them not to speak in the name of Jesus,** and let*

them go. 41 The apostles left the Sanhedrin, **rejoicing** because they had been counted worthy of suffering disgrace for the Name. 42 Day after day, in the temple courts and from house to house, **they never stopped teaching and proclaiming** the good news that Jesus is the Christ.” Acts 5:40-42, NIV.

Unstoppable message –

“3 But Saul began to **destroy the church**. Going from house to house, he dragged off men and women and put them in prison. 4 Those who had been scattered **preached the word wherever they went**.” Acts 8:3, 4, NIV.

Courage in the face of murderous opposition

3. Into every movement of God a little lukewarmness creeps.

This is most powerful deception of Satan. “Let them go to their churches, just let them think that they don’t really need to get totally into the Jesus thing!”

Jesus says, “Deny yourself, take up your cross and follow me”

Satan says, “Give a little bit of yourself, let Jesus have the cross and follow the path of self satisfaction”

The story of God’s people in Laodicea –

“14 “To the angel of the church in Laodicea write: These are the words of the Amen, the faithful and true witness, the ruler of God’s creation. 15 I know your deeds, that you are neither cold nor hot. I wish you were either one or the other! 16 So, because you are lukewarm--neither hot nor cold--I am about to spit you out of my mouth. 17 You say, ‘I am rich; I have acquired wealth and do not need a thing.’ But you do not realise that you are wretched, pitiful, poor, blind and naked. 18 I counsel you to buy from me gold refined in the fire, so that you can become rich; and white clothes to wear, so that you can cover your shameful nakedness; and salve to put on your eyes, so that you can see. 19 Those whom I love I rebuke and discipline. So be earnest, and repent. 20 Here I am! I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears my voice and opens the door, I will come in and eat with him, and he with me. 21 To him who overcomes, I will give the right to sit with me on my throne, just as I overcame and sat down with my Father on his throne. 22 He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches.”” Revelation 3:14-22, NIV.

Let’s get honest here. Can you handle it.

Signs of Lukewarmness – from Francis Chan, *Crazy Love*, pages 68-81

1. Giving money as long as it doesn’t cramp their standard of living
2. Choosing what is popular over what is right when in conflict. They desire to fit in both at church and outside of church. They care more about what people think of their actions than about what God thinks of their hearts and lives.
3. Don’t really want to be saved from sin, just the penalty of their sin. They don’t genuinely hate sin and aren’t truly sorry for it. They are sorry because God is going to punish them. They don’t really believe that this new life in Jesus is better than the old sinful one.
4. Being moved by stories about people who do radical things for Jesus, yet they do not act.
5. Rarely share faith with their neighbors, coworkers or friends. They fear rejection and don’t like feeling uncomfortable.

6. Gauge their morality or “goodness” by comparing themselves to the secular world. They feel satisfied that even though they are really devoted to Jesus, they are not as horrible as the guy down the street.
7. Love God but not with all their heart soul and strength. They assure you that they are trying but think that that sort of devotion is only for ministers, elders, missionaries and radicals.
8. Lack of love for others as they love themselves. Typically they focus on those who will love them in return.
9. Do whatever is necessary to keep themselves from feeling too guilty. They want to do the bare minimum to be “good enough”
10. Do not walk by faith. They structure their lives so they never have to. They rarely seek what God wants for their life. They have it mapped out and are not interested in depending on God.

This list is not a criteria for judging another’s salvation. It is a call for us to examine ourselves

“Examine yourselves to see whether you are in the faith; test yourselves. Do you not realize that Christ Jesus is in you-- unless, of course, you fail the test?” 2 Corinthians 13:5, NIV.

But we have to ask the question. Has the Glendale Church become lukewarm. Has George Little become lukewarm?

We don’t do this every Sunday but this Sunday we will ask the question?
Have we lost our way?

4. The solution to Lukewarmness is

Try harder. That’s our usual response to guilt. Try to do better. Then we fail again and make even more extravagant promises to God. Try harder. Work harder is **not** the solution.

Love is the solution to Lukewarmness

“But that’s the problem, I don’t really think I love God. I want to but it just doesn’t seem to happen.”

You have got to let it happen

Notice what Jesus said to the lukewarm.

“Here I am! I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears my voice and opens the door, I will come in and eat with him, and he with me.” Revelation 3:20, NIV.

- This verse is so often quoted as referring to those outside of the people of God. NO, Jesus is speaking to the people of God and asking for them to let Him into their heart.
- Jesus didn’t leave because you are having trouble with Him. **Here I am!**
- He is standing at the door of your heart and knocking. He wants in.
- Have you let Him in? You can.

Right now do you want to let him in?

If you want to do that right now please pray this prayer with me

If you can find a place and kneel down. If you don’t want to that’s OK. But if you want to give yourself to Jesus once again, then let’s kneel together.

My loving God

*When I consider all the love you have shown me
I am overwhelmed by the crazy love of Jesus.
Thank you for loving me so much
I want to love you but I am having trouble.
Guilt and lukewarmness have a grip on me.
Please Father, help me to let Jesus into my heart so I can truly love you.
I do want Him to live in my heart.
I hear the knocking and I am asking him right now
To come and live with me
I do love you Father and with Jesus in my heart I pray
That this crazy love will continue to empower my relationship with you
And my relationship with my people.
I love you Lord. I love you Jesus.
In Jesus name, Amen*