

Apathy

Revelation 3:15-16

Introduction

- Revelation 3:15-16 - “15 I know your works, that you are neither cold nor hot. I could wish you were cold or hot. 16 So then, because you are lukewarm, and neither cold nor hot, I will vomit you out of My mouth”
- Laodicea - in an area known for its medical treatments and mineralized lukewarm waters used for healing
 - One of Jesus’ most severe criticisms
 - “Lukewarm” - another way of saying “apathetic”
 - Satisfied with their own situation ... wouldn’t/couldn’t see their own spiritual degeneration
 - Apathy causes spiritual blindness/death
- What is apathy? What causes it? How dangerous? How do we address it?

What Is Apathy?

- Definition (noun) - 1. lack of interest, enthusiasm, or concern
- Similar/Synonyms: indifference, lack of interest, lack of enthusiasm, lack of concern, unconcern, uninterestedness, unresponsiveness, impassivity, passivity, passiveness, detachment, dispassion, dispassionateness, lack of involvement, phlegm, coolness, listlessness, lethargy, languor, lassitude, torpor, boredom, ennui, accidie, acedia, moperly
- Opposites/Antonyms: enthusiasm, interest, passion

What Is Apathy Biblically?

- Lack of Action - James 1:22-25 - “But be doers of the word”
- Lack of Love
 - For Christ - John 14:15 - “If you love Me, keep My commandments ...”
 - For Others - John 13:34-35 - “love one another ...”
 - For God - Matthew 22:36-40 - “You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart ...”
- Selfishness - “Name one sin not based on selfishness”
 - “It’s not my problem” - Philippians 2:1-6 - “... Let nothing be done through selfish ambition or conceit ...”
- Apathy is neglect, unloving, selfish, and thus sinful

SOME Causes Of Apathy

- Ignorance - Hosea 4:6 - “My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge ...”
- Preoccupation - Acts 24:25 - “... when I have a convenient time ...”
- Laziness - Proverbs 24:30-31 - “I went by the field of the lazy man ...”
- Selfishness - Luke 12:19-21 - “... he who lays up treasure for himself ...”
- Lack of love - Romans 14:15 - “... no longer walking in love”
- Fantasies - Ephesians 4:17 - “... the futility of their mind”

SOME Causes Of Apathy

- In the scriptures, “walk/walking” is used when someone is constantly/habitually doing what is being talked about
 - This doesn’t mean that playing a game, seeing a movie, reading a book, etc., is bad for a short period of time
 - It does mean to have your mind on getting to Heaven and what is real
- A truism - “Too much of anything is usually a bad thing”
 - Consider ... Disney
 - Rat poison = 95% good food ... 5% poison
- Apathy says, “Oh well, regardless ...”
 - Compare II Corinthians 6:1-17 - “... not to receive the grace of God in vain ...”
- FANTASY taken to its logical conclusion leads to APATHY

Apathy - Contagious/Dangerous

- Jeroboam the incited people to apathy - I Kings 12:28-30 - "... Here are your gods, O Israel ..."
- When one person is apathetic, others become apathetic as well
 - "If they don't care, then why should I?"
- Exodus 23:2 - "You shall not follow a crowd to do evil ..."

Apathy - Contagious/Dangerous

- Apathy results in atrophy - muscles start to atrophy within 24 hours of non-use
 - John 21:15-17 - "... Feed My lambs ... Tend my sheep ... Feed my sheep ..."
 - Laziness is a form of apathy that will destroy us
 - Ecclesiastes 10:18 - "building decays ... house leaks ..."
 - Apathy comes in many forms of non-action
 - Matthew 25:14-30 - "... You wicked and lazy servant ..."
 - We do not know when we will be held accountable for our deeds or lack of deeds
 - Luke 12:45-46 - "... when he is not aware ..."
- Jesus shows us that laziness, fear, and apathy will lead to Hell - Apathy ends in death!

How Does One Address Apathy?

- We need spiritual nourishment to prevent apathy
 - Matthew 5:6 - "... hunger and thirst for righteousness ..."
 - John 6:35 - "... I am the bread of life ..."
 - II Timothy 2:15 - "Be diligent ("study" KJV) to present yourself approved ..."
- Communication - Prayer - I Thessalonians 5:16-18 - "... pray without ceasing ..."
- Attendance - Hebrews 10:24-25 - "... not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together ..."
 - Consider - A glowing ember, separated from the pile of embers ... see how it dies

How Does One Address Apathy?

- Attendance - Hebrews 10:24-25 - "... not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together ..."
 - Consider - A glowing ember, separated from the pile of embers ... see how it dies
- Giving:
 - Of wealth - I Corinthians 16:1-2 - "... so you must also do ..."
 - Of yourselves - Romans 6:13 - "... your members as instruments of righteousness to God"
- Doing - We need spiritual action to prevent apathy
 - James 1:22-27 - "... be doers of the word ..."
- Consider the action words: "walk," "fight," "run," etc.