

Lukewarm in Laodicea
Revelation 3:14-22

Jesus voiced this complaint against the Laodicean church: they were _____ in their relationship to Him.

To be “cold” is to be _____, even opposed to the things of God. To be “hot” implies a passionate, _____ life of faith and service. To be “lukewarm” is to be _____ devoted and faithful if not ____-____. Surely lukewarmness is _____ than being cold. Why would Jesus consider spiritual lukewarmness the most unpleasant and useless to Him? The Parable of the Prodigal Son helps us answer that question.

In the parable there are two sons. The older was an obedient, compliant, and _____ son. The younger, not so much. He left home, fell on hard times, and _____, decided to go home. Surely, the older brother is the _____ of the story.

But no. Once his brother comes home, we learn the truth about the older brother. His dutiful behavior masked a _____ _____. His _____ never left home, but his _____ was far from the father. This describes the lukewarm Christian—one who attends church regularly, gives more than a tip, though begrudgingly, serves occasionally if the service is easy and pleasant, and rarely thinks about the Lord or speaks to others about Him if not ____ ____.

Jesus seems to indicate lukewarmness has something to do with _____. Their material well-being had allowed them to become self-satisfied, and their sense of _____-_____ spread to their spiritual lives as well.

But why would Jesus prefer a believer living an _____ life (cold) to one with at least a _____ of godliness (lukewarmness). Because just like the Prodigal Son, the cold son is much more likely to _____ his wretchedness and _____. A cold Christian is _____ to the door of repentance than the lukewarm one.

Lukewarmness is among the most _____ forms of Christianity found among church goers in America today.