

**A Look At:
The Self-Satisfied Local Church
Revelation 3:16**

**THE LUKEWARM LOCAL ~~CHURCH~~
SOCIAL CLUB**

by Dr. Lewis R. Woodard

***“A lukewarm local church is the result
of being led into apathy by its leadership.”***
L.R. W.

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SOCIAL CLUB

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DEDICATION

I praise the Lord that I am able to dedicate this writing to my wonderful wife, Andrea who has been a great inspiration and my help meet. Thank God for her love and loyalty as we work together in the ministry God has given us!

Table Of Contents

DEFINITIONS.....1

Chapter 1 Why Do Churches Become Apathetic?..... 2-3

Leadership.....2-3

Chapter 2 Who Christians Are..... 4-6

Ambassadors.....4

Chosen.....4

Changed.....5-6

Chapter 3 How Does An Apathetic Church Happen?.... 7-14

Compromise.....7

Improper Building.....8

No Watchmen To Guard The Walls.....8-9

No Emphasis On Soul-winning.....9

No Discipleship.....10

A Novice For A Leader.....10-11

Worldly Pleasures.....11

“Emerging, Purpose Driven”.....12

Modern Day Thinkers.....12-13

Your Pastor?.....14

Chapter 4 How To Guard Against Lukewarmness.....15-18

Guard The Wall.....15

Proclaim Biblical Separation..... 15-17

Prayer..... 17-18

Love The Lord18

Love As Brethren18

CONCLUSION.....19-20

Make Sure Of Heaven.....20

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Revelation 3:16 by Dr. Lewis R. Woodard

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Revelation 3:16 *So then because thou art lukewarm, and neither cold nor hot, I will spue thee out of my mouth.*

*“A lukewarm local church is the result
of being led into apathy by its leadership.”*

L. R. W.

{ _____ }

DEFINITIONS

- 1. Secular definition of apathy:** *Emotional emptiness: inability to feel normal or passionate human feelings or to respond emotionally.*
- 2. I believe a Christian definition of apathy would be:** *Spiritual emptiness: inability to discern or really care about who or what is right or wrong in spiritual matters. Not able to respond spiritually because of spiritual immaturity.*

When I think of an apathetic Christian, I think of one who blindly follows the compromising, world pleasing leadership of a local church. As a result of following the type of leadership mentioned, the lukewarm Christian becomes a compromising, world pleasing follower of the leader who conforms to the world instead of being transformed by the renewing of the mind (**Romans 12:2** *And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God.*).

Note that Christ would prefer not only a hot church like Philadelphia but also a cold church like Sardis to a lukewarm, neutral, accommodationist, comfortable church like Laodicea. At least Sardis was not harming anyone because it was not influencing anyone.
KJV Defenders Study Bible, by Dr. Henry Morris, Ph.D.

CHAPTER 1

WHY DO CHURCHES BECOME APATHETIC?

LEADERSHIP

When the leadership of a local church ignores admonitions found in the Bible, compromise and complacency result (2 Timothy 1:13; Titus 2:1, 7, 11-15; see also Romans 12:1-2).

2 Timothy 1:13 *Hold fast the form of sound words, which thou hast heard of me, in faith and love which is in Christ Jesus.*

Titus 2:1 *But speak thou the things which become sound doctrine:*

Titus 2:7 *In all things shewing thyself a pattern of good works: in doctrine shewing uncorruptness, gravity, sincerity,*

Titus 2:11-15 *For the grace of God that bringeth salvation hath appeared to all men, 12 Teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly, in this present world; 13 Looking for that blessed hope, and the glorious appearing of the great God and our Saviour Jesus Christ; 14 Who gave himself for us, that he might redeem us from all iniquity, and purify unto himself a peculiar people, zealous of good works. 15 These things speak, and exhort, and rebuke with all authority. Let no man despise thee.*

A lukewarm congregation is the result of church leadership that accepts the actions, methods, music, entertainment, and anything of the world that detracts from or takes the place of the Word of God.

Conforming to the world and following the ideas of the world because “*we live in a different time*” will eventually give that lukewarm church a different name: Ichabod = “*And she named the child Ichabod, saying, The glory [of the Lord] is departed...*” (1 Samuel 4:21a,b).

(2 Corinthians 6:17 *Wherefore come out from among them, and be ye separate, saith the Lord, and touch not the unclean thing; and I will receive you.*).



We as people who represent a Holy God should never have it in our minds that we are going to win to Christ the world (unsaved people) by being like them

CHAPTER 2

WHO CHRISTIANS ARE

AMBASSADORS

We are ambassadors of the Lord (**2 Corinthians 5:20** *Now then we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God did beseech you by us: we pray you in Christ's stead, be ye reconciled to God.*).

We are not to be ambassadors of the devil, although it would appear that there are some saved people who desire to be his ambassadors. When Christians and preachers of the Word take on the roll of being compromisers of the Word instead of confronters of the world, they in essence have relinquished the authority God has given them as His representatives (**1 Peter 3:15** *But sanctify the Lord God in your hearts: and be ready always to give an answer to every man that asketh you a reason of the hope that is in you with meekness and fear:* **2 Timothy 4:2** *Preach the word; be instant in season, out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort with all longsuffering and doctrine.*).

It is important to exhort those who believe the Word to act on the Word. It is also important for the Christian to be able to exhort those who reject the Word of Truth to receive Jesus, the Truth, by being ready always to give a reason for the hope, the assurance, that is in Jesus (**1 Peter 3:15** *But sanctify the Lord God in your hearts: and be ready always to give an answer to every man that asketh you a reason of the hope that is in you with meekness and fear:*).

CHOSEN

We have been chosen by God to be different. We sometimes get it in our minds that we have to be loved by everyone. Sometimes Christians are led to believe that the only way to reach young people is to be like them. After all, we live in a different time: “*modern times*”. The Bible teaches us that if you are a Christian (Christ like) you are to be different from the world. If you are saved, following Biblical teachings for your everyday life, people who are not saved will actually not like you very much. (I might add, some “*saved*” people will dislike you as well when you follow the Lord and stand up for Biblical convictions.) The Bible even uses the word “*hate*” to

describe what the world thinks of the person who is saved and not “conformed” to the lifestyles and actions of the world (**John 15:19** *If ye were of the world, the world would love his own: but because ye are not of the world, but I have chosen you out of the world, therefore the world hateth you.*)

Some Christians get it in their minds that the unsaved must love them or like them before they can win them to Christ. This notion is absolutely wrong. In fact, nowhere does the Bible say we have to be loved or be like the unsaved to win them to Christ. What the Bible does teach is that “**we are to love the sinner**”, not the other way around. Although we cannot love as God loves, we can follow his example of loving the lost person (**1 John 4:10** *Herein is love, not that we loved God, but that he loved us, and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins. John 3:16* *For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.*).

Love the sinner and hate the sin! When we try to be like the sinner, and conform to the world, we are no longer loving the sinner as Christ did.

CHANGED

In his epistle to the Corinthian believers, (1Corinthians 6), Paul reminds the Corinthians they were once unsaved (**1 Corinthians 6:11a** *And such were some of you:...*).

Paul also told the Corinthian believers the result of being unsaved (unrighteous) **1 Corinthians 6:9a** *Know ye not that the unrighteous shall not inherit the kingdom of God?*

Paul continues by telling the Corinthians that now because of being saved (“washed” = sin gone), they were now “*sanctified*”, set apart for God, different than they once were. They were now “*justified*” (made right in the sight of God) because of the Lord Jesus, and by the Spirit of God (**1 Corinthians 6:11** *And such were some of you: but ye are washed, but ye are sanctified, but ye are justified in the name of the Lord Jesus, and by the Spirit of our God.*)

Paul was trying to tell these Corinthians **1.** “*Don't think you are better than the unsaved Corinthians, you are just better off because you have been saved and you are on your way to heaven*”; **2.** “*You were once an unsaved Corinthian, but now you are different. You are now sanctified (set apart by Jesus through the Holy Spirit); you have been changed!*”



When a Christian gets serious with God and really lets Christ work in his/her life, then that person can be a “*real Christian*” (Christ like). That Christian can say with Paul, “*Be ye followers of me, even as I also am of Christ.*” (**1 Corinthians 11:1**).

CHAPTER 3

HOW DOES AN APATHETIC CHURCH HAPPEN?

COMPROMISE

Compromise means straddling the fence. In other words: “*not standing for anything*” (*being in the middle*).

This means that the church is under the leadership of a “*fence straddling*” preacher who does not want to hurt anyone’s feelings. This is when the Gospel is “*watered down*” to accommodate people. This is when standards are “*relaxed*” to accommodate people. This is when the world’s methods are used to proliferate the number of people in a church. By the way, the word “*proliferate*” is to **1. increase greatly**: to increase greatly in number; **2. reproduce rapidly**: to multiply cells in the process of reproducing new cells, offspring, or parts, as in the budding of plants, or be multiplied in this way [Encarta ® World English Dictionary [© & (P) 1998-2005 Microsoft Corporation. All rights reserved].

Certain church organizations are willing to grow their numbers by any means. Some of these organizations use the term “*units*” to describe people who are members. I don’t know about you, but as for me, I find it offensive when someone refers to me as a “*unit*” or to a family as a “*unit*”. God does not view a person as a unit. God views each of us as a living soul (**Genesis 2:7** *And the LORD God formed man of the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living soul.* **1 Corinthians 15:45a** *And so it is written, The first man Adam was made a living soul;*).

Yes, a church that would compromise Biblical standards for the sake of numbers (so called *units*) is absolutely, positively wrong. God absolutely, positively says the right way to fill His local church is with people who are saved. Unsaved people should never be asked or permitted to join God's local church. People get saved by hearing the Word (Rom. 1:17), and become members of the local church His way (Acts 2:47).

IMPROPER BUILDING

A local church that simply wants a gathering place for entertainment, fellowship, singing, and yes, money, to me, is not what the Lord said He would build. (**Matthew 16:18** *And I say also unto thee, That thou art Peter, and upon this rock I will build my church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it.*).

We sometimes miss some very important aspects of what the Lord said in Matthew 16:18. The Lord said HE would build HIS CHURCH, *not* “man's church”. As humans, thinking like humans, **WE HAVE TAKEN IT UPON OURSELVES TO BUILD CHRIST'S CHURCH**. God certainly uses people to witness to people, but he never said YOU would build His church. He never said YOU would save people. It is by and through the shed blood of Jesus that anyone is saved, added to **His Church** (**1 Peter 1:18-19** *Forasmuch as ye know that ye were not redeemed with corruptible things, as silver and gold, from your vain conversation received by tradition from your fathers; 19 But with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot:*).

Unfortunately, people do not have to be born again to join a local church. They may make a profession of faith, but that doesn't mean they have been born again (**2 Timothy 2:19** *Nevertheless the foundation of God standeth sure, having this seal, The Lord knoweth them that are his. And, Let every one that nameth the name of Christ depart from iniquity.* **Matthew 7:23** *And then will I profess unto them, I never knew you: depart from me, ye that work iniquity.*).

NO WATCHMEN

No watchmen have been set to guard the “walls” of the church as God told Israel to do.

Jeremiah 51:12 *Set up the standard upon the walls of Babylon, make the watch strong, set up the watchmen, prepare the ambushes: for the LORD hath both devised and done that which he spake against the inhabitants of Babylon.*

Babylon represents the ungodliness of the fallen world. Ungodliness can “*creep*” into the local church when God's people let down God's standard of holy living. Let me quickly add, I am not talking about holy living to be saved, but holy living because a person is saved.

NO WATCHMEN EQUALS A LUKEWARM CHURCH SOCIAL CLUB.



As stated, people can join a local church without being born again. When “*tares*” come in, it becomes harder and harder for that local church to make sound spiritual decisions (**Matthew 13:25** *But while men slept, his enemy came and sowed tares among the wheat, and went his way.*).

NO EMPHASIS ON SOUL WINNING

The church that has a form of Godliness, but denies the power of God, is a church that becomes cooler and cooler. (**Acts 2:47** *Praising God, and having favour with all the people. And the Lord added to the church daily such as should be saved.*)

A strong local church is one with a strong soul winning emphasis and strong follow-up emphasis. The strong local church wins them, disciples them, and is prepared for growth.

When “*tares*” come in for “*fun*” and “*games*”, the result is a local church that grows cooler and cooler. (Also, the people who are attracted to a local church by fun and games will almost always leave when the fun and games stop.)

I would also add this, I believe “*tares*” are not always unsaved people. “*Tares*”, I believe, could also be saved people who are backslidden, and/or ignorant of the Word. These would be people who bring in, or want to bring in, things within the local church that are pleasing to the flesh and not pleasing to the Lord.

NO EMPHASIS ON DISCIPLESHIP

Not only did the Lord, in what is called “*The Great Commission*” (Matthew 28:19-20), instruct believers to bring people to Him for salvation, He also said, “*Teaching [disciple - instruct] them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you..*” (Matthew 28:20a). Certainly one of the greatest joys a saved person could ever have is to help someone else come to Jesus. Our joy should not stop when a person gets saved. Our joy should continue to grow as we teach new converts how to walk as newborn babes in Christ. We teach through the Bible by nurturing and admonishing, showing the new convert how he or she can grow in the Lord. As the new convert grows, our joy grows. The convert learns how to walk and grow as a Christian and also learns how to lead others to Christ.

Sadly, the lukewarm congregation have themselves never been taught the joy of helping another saved person to grow and mature in the Lord. Once again the leadership of the lukewarm church is at fault where there is no discipleship of new converts. The leadership of the lukewarm church may have a form of discipleship, but the type of discipleship offered is, for the most part, aimed at teaching the old and new people of the congregation how to “*feel good about themselves*”, have “*group hugs*”, “*entertain*”, and “*have fellowship with the world*”. Instead of being different from the world, the lukewarm church simply gathers around man-made programs while the unsaved world goes to Hell!

On the other hand, why disciple when no one is being taught how to lead souls to Christ? The lukewarm church simply waits for an increase in the congregation from “*church hoppers*” and “*tares*”.

A NOVICE FOR A LEADER

1 Timothy 5:22 *Lay hands suddenly on no man, neither be partaker of other men's sins: keep thyself pure.*

A novice can be a beginner or just plain inexperienced. The novice could be a person who is “*thrust*” into the ministry by a person who recommends him because of a personal relationship. Simply put, people are placed in leadership capacities within many local churches by people who are Scriptural novices themselves.

A novice does not have to be a person who has just been saved, or a recent graduate of a Bible college. This could even be someone who is already a Pastor, Youth Pastor or other leader in the church. Simply because a person has served in a leadership capacity for several years does not mean that person is mature in the Word of God. I believe the proper definition of a novice is *one who is immature in the precepts of God found in the Scriptures; one who is easily swayed by 'every wind of doctrine' [man's teachings and beliefs]* (**Ephesians 4:14** *That we henceforth be no more children, tossed to and fro, and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the sleight of men, and cunning craftiness, whereby they lie in wait to deceive;*).

A church can become lukewarm when a person is placed in a leadership capacity by a congregation who themselves have not been taught Biblical prerequisites concerning the office to be filled (See again Ephesians 4:14.).

WORLDLY PLEASURES

The things not pleasing to the Lord are those things that can be worldly evidences that identify the unsaved: fleshly desires and actions that go contrary to the Word of God. Might I say also, this is another reason there are so many Bible versions (*perversions*) floating around in so many local churches. Man has made up his own set of rules to accommodate his own sinful fleshly desires. If you desire to dance, there is a perversion of the Bible for you. If you want to take a “*social*” drink, there is a perversion for you. If you want to partake of gambling, there is a perversion for you. If you want to wear revealing clothing that leaves nothing to the imagination, if you want to get tattoos, if you decide to do anything that is ungodly, there is a perversion for you that has been written by some man or woman who has made it possible for you to have an “*alibi*” for your sinfulness. (What is not a perversion of the Bible? The King James Version.)

If you desire to do things contrary to the Word of God, there is a lukewarm ~~church~~ social club for you.

EMERGING, PURPOSE DRIVEN

There are some church leaders who think you have to have all kinds of programs, buildings, and “*connections to organizations*”. Many of these leaders change the word “*pulpit*” to “*stage*”, change the words “*church grounds*” to “*campus*”, and change the word “*sin*” to “*mistake*”. These same individuals will say “*it’s all Adam’s fault instead of it’s you who have sinned*” and “*all we need to do is love*”. These are the people who deny the power of God in building His Church (**2 Timothy 3:5** *Having a form of godliness, but denying the power thereof: from such turn away.*).

There is no excuse for leaders of a church to allow the emerging, purpose driven church to infiltrate and pollute the people of God! Those leaders who are allowing God’s people and God’s Word to be desecrated are the same likes of those who are responsible for the World Council of Churches, The American Baptists, the One World Church and etc.

There are no excuses! In fact, God gives a warning to those who pollute and lead His people astray: **Matthew 18:6** *But whoso shall offend one of these little ones which believe in me, it were better for him that a millstone were hanged about his neck, and that he were drowned in the depth of the sea.* (“*Little ones*” mentioned in Matthew 18:6 is not necessarily speaking of young children. This and other like verses can also be speaking of Christians, God’s children, being led astray.)

MODERN DAY THINKERS

***P**eople such as Billy Graham, Chuck Swindoll, James Dobson, Max Lacado, and other “*modern day thinkers*”, “*great orators of anything goes as long as you do not speak against anything or cause disunity*”, are examples of those who are spineless, milquetoast, compromising, tickle the ears, weak kneed rejecters of the fundamentals of the faith once delivered (Jude 1:3). In short, Evangelicalism, New Evangelicalism, and Neo Evangelicalism are not Scriptural.

If your church is characterized by, or your Pastor is characterized by any of the following, leave now! Get into a real Bible Believing local church.

- a. New Evangelicalism is characterized by a repudiation of separation.
- b. New Evangelicalism is characterized by replacing separation with dialogue.
- c. New Evangelicalism is characterized by a love for positivism, by a repudiation of the more negative aspects of biblical Christianity, by a judge-not philosophy, by a dislike of doctrinal controversy.
- d. New Evangelicalism is characterized by exalting love and unity above doctrine.
- e. New Evangelicalism is characterized by a pragmatic approach to the ministry.
- f. New Evangelicalism is characterized by a desire for intellectual respectability, by pride of scholarship.
- g. New Evangelicalism is characterized by an attitude of anti-fundamentalism.
- h. New Evangelicalism is characterized by an inconsistency, by contradiction.
- i. New Evangelicalism is characterized by the division of biblical truth into categories of important and not important.
- j. New Evangelicalism is characterized by exalting social-political activity to the same level as the Great Commission.
- k. New Evangelicalism is characterized by a mood of softness, a desire for a less strict Christianity, a weariness with fighting, a neutrality toward spiritual warfare.

The apostles were **NOT** New Evangelicals and they were **NOT** afraid to speak out against wrong. Regarding false teachers, they gave the following instruction: (1) Mark and avoid them (**Rom. 16:17-18**). (2) Come out from among them (**2 Cor. 6:14-18**). (3) Shun their babblings (**2 Tim. 2:16-17**). (4) Turn away from them (**2 Tim. 3:5**). (5) Reject them (**Tit. 3:10**). (6) Do not receive them nor bid them God speed (**2 Jn. 10-11**).

YOUR PASTOR?

You are probably thinking: *“My Pastor could never lead my church astray. My Pastor would never say or do anything contrary to the Word of God. My Pastor may quote from some of those Evangelicals mentioned, but he does not agree with everything they say or do.”* My question to your thoughts and others you might have is this: How do you know? Are you blindly following a man because what he says sounds good, or are you following *“thus saith the Lord”* in God's Word? I would also ask you: Does your Pastor have any of the characteristics of New Evangelicals I have listed on the previous page? **1 Corinthians 10:20** *But I say, that the things which the Gentiles sacrifice, they sacrifice to devils, and not to God: and I would not that ye should have fellowship with devils.*

CHAPTER 4

HOW TO GUARD AGAINST “LUKEWARMNESS”

GUARD THE WALL

Jeremiah 51:12 *Set up the standard upon the walls of Babylon [the world], make the watch strong, set up the watchmen, prepare the ambushes: for the LORD hath both devised and done that which he spake against the inhabitants of Babylon [the world].*

Do NOT let the world's standards dictate how God's local church is to be built. The local church is not to be built upon promotion, games, “fellowship”, amusements, or anything else that takes away or detracts from the preaching of the Word (**1 Corinthians 1:18** *For the preaching of the cross is to them that perish foolishness; but unto us which are saved it is the power of God. 1 Corinthians 1:21* *For after that in the wisdom of God the world by wisdom knew not God, it pleased God by the foolishness of preaching to save them that believe.*).

Guard the wall! Stand fast! **Ephesians 6:13** *Wherefore take unto you the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand.*

PROCLAIM BIBLICAL SEPARATION

The lukewarm social club will tell you when someone speaks of Biblical separation they are really only trying to put you under the Law. Or, the lukewarm church social club leaders will say you are at liberty to do anything you want as long as you are not “convicted” of those things. After all, as a Christian you have been set free. Sometimes leaders of so called Bible believing local churches will tell you those who preach and teach Biblical separation (being different than the unsaved), are preaching and teaching “legalism”. My Bible (KJV) tells me in the Book of Galatians that I have been set free, and that **I am not to use my liberty as an occasion to sin** (**Galatians 5:1** *Stand fast therefore in the liberty wherewith Christ hath made us free, and be not entangled again with the yoke of bondage.*).

The yoke of bondage is the bondage of sin.

Galatians 5:13 *For, brethren, ye have been called unto liberty; only use not liberty for an occasion to the flesh, but by love serve one another.*

We, as Christians, do have liberty and are not under the Law. The Law (Ten Commandments) was not given to save us, to keep us saved, or for us to get points with God. The Law was given to us as a schoolmaster to teach us right from wrong and to show us we need a Savior: we **cannot** save ourselves. I am saved, set free from being a slave of sin , and **I am now a bond slave of the Master, Jesus Christ!**

1. Bible separation is not a preference.

2. Bible separation is not a conviction.

3. Bible separation is a **command** of God, from the Bible, for His people (**2 Corinthians 6:17** *Wherefore come out from among them, and be ye separate, saith the Lord, and touch not the unclean thing; and I will receive you.*). In that verse God is not talking about keeping the Law to be saved. He is not talking about keeping the Law. What God is talking about is Biblical separation, which is being different from the world and its standards.

When you do right, you are in a right relationship with the Lord. That right relationship is what is called “fellowship with the Lord”. People look for Christian fellowship with other believers, but what they really need is Godly fellowship with our heavenly Father! Do you feel alone? Do you as a Christian yearn for fellowship? Quit looking to the flesh and look first to the Lord for a right relationship with Him. Get things right with the Lord and then you can have real fellowship, real worship with the Lord and other believers (**John 4:24** *God is a Spirit: and they that worship him must worship him in spirit and in truth.*). When a church stops worshiping and having fellowship with God in Spirit and in TRUTH, that church becomes lukewarm.

Remember, God says a lukewarm church makes Him sick to His stomach (**Revelation 3:16** *So then because thou art lukewarm, and neither cold nor hot, I will spue thee out of my mouth.*).

Biblical separation cannot be maintained without a real campaign. A separatist stance will only be maintained on purpose and at a cost, but it is worth it. Sometimes other Christians will shun you when you take a stand for God. Keep going! Sometimes Christians will say or think unkind things about you when you take a stand for God. Keep going! I would rather stand for God than to stand for a lukewarm ~~church~~ social club! I would rather stand for God than to stand for a man who twists the Word of God! My allegiance is to God not to some building or to some man's "Popery" in operating a local church under false pretenses!

KeeP this in mind: Biblical separation is not the gospel and it is not the work of the ministry. It is a divinely-ordained wall of spiritual protection against apostasy and the world. To reject "*Biblical separatism*" is to tear down this wall of protection so that God's people are no longer kept from the heretics' "*good words and fair speeches*". Heretics will deceive the hearts of the simple if the wall of separatism is torn down (**Romans 16:18** *For they that are such serve not our Lord Jesus Christ, but their own belly; and by good words and fair speeches deceive the hearts of the simple.*).

PRAYER

Guarding against lukewarmness in a local church really is a matter of Spiritual sense. Everything we do needs to be bathed in prayer.

We need to pray as Daniel did: **Daniel 9:3** *And I set my face unto the Lord God, to seek by prayer and supplications, with fasting, and sackcloth, and ashes:*

We need to always be in an "*attitude*" of prayer.

1 Thessalonians 5:17 *Pray without ceasing.*

We need to pray with the attitude that God will hear us.

Psalms 5:3 *My voice shalt thou hear in the morning, O LORD; in the morning will I direct my prayer unto thee, and will look up.*

We need to ask the Lord to teach us how to pray.

Luke 11:1 *And it came to pass, that, as he was praying in a certain place, when he ceased, one of his disciples said unto him, **Lord, teach us to pray**, as John also taught his disciples.*

Christian: KEEP PRAYING FOR YOUR PASTOR, HIS FAMILY AND YOUR CHURCH FAMILY! PRAY THAT YOUR PASTOR WILL BE GUARDED BY GOD AGAINST THE WILES OF THE DEVIL. PRAY FOR HIS PHYSICAL AND SPIRITUAL HEALTH. PRAY THAT HE WILL STAND ON THE WORD OF GOD AND NOT BE SWAYED BY THE “CHANGING TIMES” (God never changes: **Malachi 3:6a** “*For I am the LORD, I change not;...*”. **Hebrews 13:8** “*Jesus Christ the same yesterday, and to day, and for ever.*”).

LOVE THE LORD

Psalms 26:8 *LORD, I have loved the habitation of thy house, and the place where thine honour dwelleth.*

Psalms 97:10 *Ye that love the LORD, hate evil: he preserveth the souls of his saints; he delivereth them out of the hand of the wicked. **Psalms 40:16** Let all those that seek thee rejoice and be glad in thee: let such as love thy salvation say continually, The LORD be magnified.*

Job 13:15 *Though he slay me, yet will I trust in him: but I will maintain mine own ways before him.*

2 Thessalonians 3:5 *And the Lord direct your hearts into the love of God, and into the patient waiting for Christ.*

Romans 8:28 *And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose.*

LOVE AS BRETHREN

1 John 3:14 *We know that we have passed from death unto life, because we love the brethren. He that loveth not his brother abideth in death.*

1 Peter 3:8 *Finally, be ye all of one mind, having compassion one of another, love as brethren, be pitiful, be courteous:*

1 Peter 1:22 *Seeing ye have purified your souls in obeying the truth through the Spirit unto unfeigned love of the brethren, see that ye love one another with a pure heart fervently:*

CONCLUSION

IT'S HIS CHURCH

God's Church is those people who are saved, period! The **local church** is a visible manifestation of those *“people who have made a profession of being saved”*, who are in essence saying *“I am a Member of the Body of Christ, a Member of **His Church**”*. Only God knows who is genuinely saved. Local churches have become so polluted with man's thoughts and ideas that anyone can join by simply stating *“I'm a Christian”* or *“I've been baptized”*. Some say you have to be baptized, pray through, work, be good or perform some other ritual to be a member of God's Church. *My dad used to say “some people have been baptized so many times, every frog in the creek knows them”*. The Bible says in order to be a member of God's Church you must be born again (**John 3:7** *Marvel not that I said unto thee, Ye must be born again.*)

The local church that doesn't make God sick to His stomach is that church who listens to Him. God promises to lead and teach that church (**John 7:17** *If any man will do his will, he shall know of the doctrine, whether it be of God, or whether I speak of myself.*).

What people, what church does God hear? He hears the true worshipers: the people of a local church who are saved and doing what He asks of them in His Word (**John 9:31** *Now we know that God heareth not sinners: but if any man be a worshipper of God, and doeth his will, him he heareth.*).

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2 John 1:3 *Grace be with you, mercy, and peace, from God the Father, and from the Lord Jesus Christ, the Son of the Father, in truth and love.*

2 Corinthians 13:14 *The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Ghost, be with you all. Amen.*

Make sure of Heaven. See the next page.

MAKE SURE OF HEAVEN

Question: Who is a sinner? **Answer:** ALL

Romans 3:23 **"For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God;"**

Question: Why are people sinners? **Answer:** BECAUSE OF ONE MAN: ADAM

Romans 5:12 **"Wherefore, as by one man sin entered into the world, and death by sin; so death passed upon all men, for that all have sinned:"**

Question: What happens because of sin? **Answer:** DEATH

Romans 6:23a **"For the wages of sin is death;...."**

Question: If all people are sinners, and the wage (payoff) for sin is death (both physical and spiritual), does that mean no one will go to Heaven? **Answer:** NO, CHRIST PAID FOR OUR SIN

Romans 5:8 **"But God Commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us."**

Question: What is eternal life? **Answer:** A GIFT

Romans 6:23b **"...but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord."**

Question: So, what does all this mean? **Answer:** It means that all people in this world are sinners. No one can go to Heaven on their own because everyone is a sinner. No one is good enough (without Christ) to go to Heaven. Because no one is good enough to go to Heaven, (everyone is a sinner), God sent His Son, Jesus, who died so that we could have eternal life. Christ not only died, He rose from the grave, alive!

Question: Exactly what would you have to do in order to make sure of Heaven?

Answer: CALL: PRAY, ASK JESUS TO SAVE YOU:

Romans 10:13 **"For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved."**

Accept the fact that you are a sinner. Accept the fact that you cannot save yourself. Accept the fact that Jesus died and rose from the dead (He's alive) for you.

PRAY: *"Lord, I know I'm a sinner. I know I wouldn't go to Heaven if I died right now. Please forgive me of my sins, and come into my heart. I am praying this prayer, believing in my heart, taking You at Your Word (the Bible) that by asking You to come into my heart, I am now ready for Heaven. Thank You, Lord, for saving me!"*

REMEMBER: Romans 10:13 **"For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord, shall be saved."**

If you have decided to ask Jesus into your heart or if you have not decided at this time, please allow me to send you more information about going to Heaven.. Write to me at the address below or go to our website: WWW.LRWM.ORG.

Because of Christ,

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