

Week 7

Group Discussion Questions - Laodicea

CONNECT

Have you ever been part of a fan club? If so, which one? If not, and you were forced to join one, which one would it be? A sports team? A musical group? A celebrity?

CONSIDER

Watch this week's Groups video at mynorthside.com/dearchurch. **What encouraged or challenged you from the sermon and/or daily devotions this week?**

CHRIST

Read Revelation 3:14-22.

The message to the church at Laodicea is to be zealous. A standard definition of zealous is to be "filled with or showing a strong and energetic desire to get something done or see something succeed." In church circles, it is defined as "having passionate energy for a belief or purpose." **How would you characterize someone who is a zealous Christian? Would you say that your walk with Christ could be defined as zealous?**

The opposite of zealous is apathetic, which is defined as "having or showing little or no interest, concern, or emotion." Those who are not Christians can have an apathetic attitude towards the things of God; but, unfortunately, many believers today can be described as apathetic towards their faith as well. **What are some things we can do to not become apathetic in our walk with Christ?**

Verse 16 gives us one of the strongest statements that Jesus has ever uttered. It says that "*because you are lukewarm—neither hot nor cold—I am about to spit you out of my mouth.*" Some translations use the word spew or vomit instead of spit here. During the days of the Laodicean church, cold water came from springs and was useful to cool and refresh. Hot water came from natural thermal pools and was useful to cleanse, purify, and to soothe aching bodies. Lukewarm water really did not have similar benefits. In fact, lukewarm water often contained parasites. The water in Laodicea was known to be lukewarm because their water traveled several miles through aqueducts and would be notoriously putrid by the time it arrived. The imagery Jesus uses here suggests that lukewarm people are useless, and it makes Him sick!! **Does this make you feel differently about how useful you are currently being for the Kingdom?**

The Bible frequently equates deeds with a person's true spiritual state. This can be seen in verses such as:

- "*Not everyone who says to me, 'Lord, Lord,' will enter the kingdom of heaven, but only the one who does the will of my Father*" (Matthew 7:21).
- "*This is to my Father's glory, that you bear much fruit, showing yourselves to be my disciples*" (John 15:8).

What are some practical ways you can do the will of the Father and bear much fruit in this new year?

We read in verse 19 that Jesus says, “Those whom I love I rebuke and discipline.” This may be counterintuitive to those who are not parents; but, if you are, you know that you don’t discipline your children because you hate them, but because you love them. If you’re not a parent, you can likely remember a parent disciplining you; and, even if you didn’t realize it at the time, you can now see that it was done out of love. **Is God showing you any tough love today? If not, in what areas of your faith journey would you acknowledge that He should?**

CALLING

Read Revelation 3:20 again.

Jesus concludes this message to the Laodician church, the last of the seven churches addressed here in Revelation, with the image of Him knocking on an unopened door and the promise to eat with anyone who does two things: hear His voice and open the door. **As a call to action, take some time this week to get to a quiet place each day to pray, asking God what door of obedience or opportunity He wants you to walk through and then patiently wait to hear His response.**

Daily Devotions

Take the time to read the daily devotions associated with this study. Then, to continue with this spiritual habit of daily devotion with God, text JOINGOD to 81411 or use the Study tab in the Northside App to receive devotions on a daily basis moving forward.

Further Study & Reflection

Take some time to read and pray over the following Scriptures:

- Ephesians 2:10
- Ecclesiastes 9:10
- 2 Corinthians 5:10
- James 1:22
- James 2:14-26
- Titus 2:14

Memorize

Do not let your heart envy sinners, but always be zealous for the fear of the Lord.

Proverbs 23:17

FAMILY
CONVERSATION
STARTERS

