



# Sermon Discussion Guide

## APATHETIC AND ASHAMED

**Revelation 3:14-22 (Laodicea)**

Pastor Kevin, 10/23/22

*Big Idea:* Jesus is opposed to the self-deceived and apathetic. Yet he stands at the door and knocks, eager to dine with a repentant church.

### Outline:

- *1 Statement* about Jesus (the “Amen” who gives the *true* diagnosis of the Church at Laodicea)
  - *2 Criticisms* of the Church (Apathy & Self-Deception)
  - *3 Steps* (**Counsel:** you’re not seeing yourself truly. **Command:** be zealous and repent. **Invitation:** open the door)
1. To be “lukewarm” in Jesus' eyes means that one has become good for nothing. Why does God hate lukewarmness in his Church?
  2. Jesus has *nothing* good to say about the church in Laodicea. They say, “I’m rich, I’m prosperous, I need nothing.” Wealth can be a blessing from the Lord. Yet how can material prosperity be dangerous?
  3. Kevin asked, “Are you the type of person who makes things easy to tell hard things? (...) Or do you invite helpful constructive criticism?” Practically speaking, how can we be open to receive honest feedback from trustworthy brothers & sisters in Christ?
  4. Kevin said, “Spiritual apathy is living your life as if you didn't really need anything from God.” Laodicea had a *dependence* issue. They thought they were nailing it, when all the while they were “wretched, pitiable, poor, blind, and naked.” God has blessed us with material abundance. What are some good prayers to pray to God in seasons of material abundance?
  5. The opposite of apathy is zeal. To clarify, Kevin said, “God is not asking you to be a different personality. Being zealous doesn’t mean you have to be unrelentingly intense (...) He’s telling you to be you, but to *care*.” Practically speaking, what is the difference between spiritual zeal and “unrelenting intensity” and how can we live that out this week?
  6. Kevin mentioned that temptation to spiritual apathy can happen at any age. What can we do to encourage our kids *not* to be Laodicean?
  7. Kevin gave a definition of *complacency*: “To think the lord will not do good neither will he do ill. It does not matter.” In your own heart, do you think you have ever mistaken godly patience with sinful complacency? How do they manifest themselves differently in your life?
  8. Read v. 19-20. How are these verses such a wonderful antidote to spiritual apathy and self-deception?