

Bad Advice:

Don't take your faith too seriously



Certain things deserve being taken seriously. Nobody wants to be on the receiving end of a lukewarm relationship; including God. When we consider how seriously Jesus loves us, our response changes.

Thinking Points:

1. Some reasons why we may not be taking our faith seriously include:
 - Scary serious stereotypes, e.g. people who are always Bible bashing, or giving Christianity a bad name
 - FOMO factor - "if I become a Christian, what would I be missing out on?"
 - Compartment Jesus - "I'll keep God in this area of my life, but don't want Him elsewhere - like in my job, or at school, or in my friendship circle"
 - Someday Sometime - "yeah, I might get serious about my faith, but not yet..."

Can you relate to any of these?

2. In Revelation 3:15-17, what does God say about the Laodicean church?
3. Are you hot / cold / lukewarm?
4. What do you think a 'hot' or 'cold' Christian looks like?
5. What might it feel like to be on the receiving end of a lukewarm relationship?

God isn't trying to condemn us by saying the things in these verses. In Revelation 3:19 we see Him say, "the people I love, I call to account!" In verse 20 He is knocking at the door of our hearts - He wants to be present in our lives; making us better versions of ourselves. He wants to step in and amplify our lives with His love.

Next Steps

1. In Revelation 3:18, God tells us exactly what He wants us to do. He wants us to come to Him with our needs, so that He can fulfil them in a meaningful way.
 - Gold → Worth
 - Clothes → Personality/Identity
 - Medicine → Spiritual healing
2. Read Revelation 3:20-21. God is knocking at your heart's door. Are you answering His knock?

1. Check your temperature.
2. Identify the areas in your life where you are shutting the door on Jesus.
3. Speak it out.
4. Invite Him in every day.

Revelation 3 : 15 - 22 (MSG)

¹⁵⁻¹⁷"I know you inside and out, and find little to my liking. You're not cold, you're not hot—far better to be either cold or hot! You're stale. You're stagnant. You make me want to vomit. You brag, 'I'm rich, I've got it made, I need nothing from anyone,' oblivious that in fact you're a pitiful, blind beggar, threadbare and homeless. ¹⁸"Here's what I want you to do: Buy your gold from me, gold that's been through the refiner's fire. Then you'll be rich. Buy your clothes from me, clothes designed in Heaven. You've gone around half-naked long enough. And buy medicine for your eyes from me so you can see, *really* see. ¹⁹"The people I love, I call to account—prod and correct and guide so that they'll live at their best. Up on your feet, then! About face! Run after God! ²⁰⁻²¹"Look at me. I stand at the door. I knock. If you hear me call and open the door, I'll come right in and sit down to supper with you. Conquerors will sit alongside me at the head table, just as I, having conquered, took the place of honor at the side of my Father. That's my gift to the conquerors! ²²"Are your ears awake? Listen. Listen to the Wind Words, the Spirit blowing through the churches."