

Cold Hearted

In the Church atmosphere we have best faces, hugs, words and loving God and Loving People seems easier in a Church Settings. Our faith grows through hearing the word, worship, fellowship with other believers...but loves greatest tests are outside this physical building in everyday life. Our love for Him and for others is meant to grow stronger, warmer, more intense. Like a fire that's fed and sets ablaze all around it. But, the Bible tells us that the love of MANY will grow COLD because of the lawlessness, the evil, the chaos. We MUST remain fervent in our Love-It's a witness to this World-Don't Chill out!

LAWLESSNESS AFFECTS TEMPERATURE - Cold Love

The Disciples came to Jesus privately and said, "Tell us, when will these things be, what is the sign of Your coming and the End of the age..." Wars, rumors of wars, Deception, famines, pestilence, earthquakes, false prophets... (this is the beginning of sorrows/birth pains).

Matthew 24:12 NKJV

And because lawlessness will abound, the love of **many will** grow cold.

- Lawlessness in this text means, iniquity, disobedience, sin, wickedness, lawlessness. Living in a world increasing in lawlessness and being bombarded with the sin, crime, bad news we can become numb and passive.
- The love of MANY, not some.
- Will GROW cold. Will grow suggests a process. Strong's Greek-Reduction of temperature. It does not happen overnight. With love, it can be compared to a fire that slowly dies due to lack of oxygen, fanning the flame, something to 'smother' it out.
- The process of having a heart of fire with the Love of God, to a Cold love can be influenced by our experiences such as the things

we see, hear, experience cause hardness of heart.
Disappointments, offense, heartbreaks, hardships of life and by
lawlessness.

2 Timothy 3:1-5 Describes Perilous times

Timothy 3:1-5 NKJV

3 But know this, that in the last days perilous (savage, difficult, dangerous, painful, fierce, grievous. Barren of virtue) times will come: ²For men will be lovers of themselves, lovers of money, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy, ³unloving, [**b**]unforgiving, slanderers, without self-control, brutal, despisers of good, ⁴traitors, headstrong, haughty, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God, ⁵having a form of godliness but denying its power. And from such people turn away!

- Today, there is a demand for lawlessness. Selfishness and personal rights are commonly esteemed above what is right, Holy, True. Good is called evil and evil good.

Question: In days such as this, how do we have fervent love for Jesus and for one another?

***Fervent love is kindled in the hearts of those who stay close to
The source of the fire, The Source of Love Himself. He is the Only
Way-Truth-Life-His love warms the coldest of hearts.***

RESIST A DROP IN TEMPERATURE! DON'T CHILL OUT!

WE must resist a drop in temperature. Hold our ground and stand fast and firm in Christ, persevere under pressure. The world is watching us in our workplaces, on the road, in our homes, with our families, how we respond during difficulty, when someone does us wrong, how we talk

about one another and treat one another. How we do business. How we behave in the check out line or drive through. ***Are we a good neighbor?***

A GOOD NEIGHBOR

Luke 10:25-37 NKJV The Good Samaritan-A Good Neighbor

The lawyer asks a question, "What do I do to inherit eternal life?" Who is my neighbor?" Jesus asks, "What's written in the law?" The lawyer asks, **wanting to justify himself** asked, "Who is my neighbor?" In essence, who is worthy of my love? Who does this apply to? Jesus shares the parable. A man was traveling, beaten, left to die and the Church Folk (A Priest and a Levite) passed him by, went on the other side of the road. Treacherous road traveled to Jerusalem to Jericho. Some Historians say that the road was called, "The Way of Blood."

Jesus notes that the Samaritan showed "COMPASSION" and reverses the question, Jesus asks, "Which of these three (Priest, Levite or Samaritan) do you think **was a good neighbor?**" The Lawyer responded, "He who showed mercy on Him" Jesus said, "Go and do likewise."

THE ONE WHO SHOWED COMPASSION WAS THE NEIGHBOR

WE CAN SHARE THIS LOVE THROUGH HIM WHO MADE A WAY THROUGH HIS BLOOD.

Jesus reminds him, it's not about who is worthy to be called my neighbor but who will Be a neighbor to those in need?

The Samaritan took him to the Inn and said, "Take care of him; and *Whatever you spend, I will repay you when I return.*"

Loving others will cost us. Sometimes it gets messy, it can be inconvenient and we don't usually get a thank you but whatever we spend, God Himself will repay!

Contract vs. Covenant-No Strings Attached

There is a difference between a Contract and a Covenant, and when it comes to love, we often think "contract."

Jesus gave His Life for us, Love Himself-He paid the Cost-We give of what we've been given. We could do nothing to earn it.

Can you forgive someone who doesn't "deserve" it? Can you be kind to someone who is not kind to you? Do they have to "Earn" your love and respect? Can you give of what you've been given freely **without strings attached** when He brings them across your path?

Don't compromise His Holiness, the Scriptures in any way. His love is not the same as the love defined by the world.

LETS CHECK OUR TEMPERATURE

- Acid test-His Love IS the Real thing.
- **Love defined** by the Scriptures. There are many mixed, watered down definitions of love. Not Sensual and does not compromise holiness or the purity of His Word.

1 Corinthians 13:4-7 NIV ⁴Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. ⁵It does not dishonor others, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. ⁶Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. ⁷It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres.

- Can we put down our phones for a moment while waiting in line to SEE the person in front of us who is hurting...Are we reaching

out or walking on the other side of the road like the Levite and the Priest mentioned before or being a good neighbor like the Samaritan? When we hear of tragedy, crime, sin, does it move us to pray? When we watch the news or Facebook and or a situation comes across media, are we quick to type cynical opinions or pray for them and the situation?

- Compassion fatigue. Nursing, Police, Social Workers. Described as emotional and physical exhaustion leading to a diminished ability to empathize or feel compassion for others, often described as, “The negative cost of caring” Become robotic in response, service remedy vs connecting with humanity.

- We say, “The world is so tasteless, its so dark!” But yet Jesus said, “**You are the salt** of the Earth, but if the salt loses its flavor, how will it be seasoned? **You are the light** of the world. A city that is set on a hill cannot be hidden. Let your light shine that they can see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven (Matthew 5:13-16 NKJV)

LOVE AND UNITY – A WITNESS TO THE WORLD

Jesus’ Prayer before the Cross- Unity and Love THROUGH Him

John 17:20-23 NIV

²⁰ “My prayer is not for them alone. I pray also for those who will believe in me through their message, ²¹ that all of them may be one, Father, just as you are in me and I am in you. May they also be in us **so that the world may believe** that you have sent me. ²² I have given them the glory that you gave me, that they may be one as we are one— ²³ **I in them and you in me**—so that they may be brought to complete unity. **Then the world will know that You sent Me and have loved them even as you have loved Me.**