

03/22/26 Message

Part of What Does God NOT Want

March 20, 2026

Message: Lukewarm

Series: What Does God NOT Want

Background

A follow-up series to “What Does God Want” which built on this premise:

What does God want from me?

- This year
- Today
- Right Now

When we ask ourselves that, we're seeking the heart and will of God. And when we ask with intention we're asking with the intention we will change to be and do what God wants. And when we ask with that intention, God will answer your question. He will reveal things to you that you'd never know, maybe things you've never even thought of before. What does God want from you this year, today, right now?

—Pastor Chad

Stemming from a verse found in the OT:

Deuteronomy 10:12 (NIV)

And now, Israel, what does the Lord your God ask of you but to fear the Lord your God, to walk in obedience to Him, to love Him, to serve the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul.

This follow-up series explores and highlights what God doesn't want us to do. We have to get sin out of the way and enter the presence of God. Then we have His full attention and He is there!

—Pastor Chad

Proverbs 6:16-19 (ESV)

16 There are six things that the Lord hates, seven that are an abomination to him:

17 haughty eyes, a lying tongue, and hands that shed innocent blood,
18 a heart that devises wicked plans, feet that make haste to run to evil,

19 a false witness who breathes out lies, one who sows discord among brothers.

God Does Not Want Lukewarm

That word lukewarm can be replaced with words like superficial, weak, passive, half-hearted. What about a lukewarm surgeon? Anyone just can't wait to go under their knife? What about a dentist? You want a lukewarm dentist drilling on your grill? Absolutely not, we want someone who is all in. Truth is, Jesus was all in for you, He gave it all and He demands that you be all in for Him!

—Pastor Chad

Revelation 3:15-16 (NLT)

15 "I know all the things you do, that you are neither hot nor cold. I wish that you were one or the other!

16 But since you are like lukewarm water, neither hot nor cold, I will spit you out of my mouth!

Being lukewarm in our spiritual lives doesn't mean we're actively doing something wrong or intentionally sinning. Good people are lukewarm. It just means, when it comes to our spiritual lives, we are inactive, lazy, not committed. Going back to the descriptions I gave before, it means our spiritual lives are superficial, weak, passive, half-hearted.

—Pastor Chad

- Lukewarm faith is WORTHLESS faith
 - Lukewarm faith is comfortable, but it's powerless.

John 15:5 (CSB)

I am the vine; you are the branches. The one who remains in me and I in him produces much fruit, because you can do nothing without me.

I'd go as far as to say, lukewarm faith takes no faith at all. And no faith at all means we can do nothing because we are powerless without God in our life. I've said it before and I'll say it again, it's all or nothing with God. Pastor, why do you tell us that so often? Because I don't think we get it. We say we do but when it comes to eternity... when it comes to forever... we just can't wrap our flesh around it. We don't understand it. How a decision to do this God thing half-hearted can literally affect where you spend forever, heaven or hell, we always think we have more time to get it right. Sit down and be comfortable. Look at your watch. You notice time doesn't stop just because you do. And each second, you're one second closer to your life on this earth coming to an end... and then what's left... eternity... forever, and where you're headed when that time comes. Lukewarm faith is worthless faith!

—Pastor Chad

- Lukewarm living is STALE living

At the beginning of this message to the church at Laodicea, God said I know all the things you do, that you neither hot or cold, I wish you were one or the other! God used the hot, cold, and lukewarm analogy because the people of Laodicea knew it well. About 5-6 miles north of Laodicea was a place known as Hierapolis. Hierapolis was known as a 'healing center' with hot springs. Hot water would come through springs to Laodicea, but by the time it reached the town, it wasn't hot anymore, it was lukewarm at best. Then about 10-12 miles southeast of Laodicea was a place known as Colossae, you've heard of the church there known as the Colossian church. Colossae was higher in the mountains, and its cold water would flow down to Laodicea. By the time its water reached Laodicea, it wasn't cold anymore... it was lukewarm. Hot water on one side and cold water on the other, yet neither hot enough or cold enough to benefit Laodicea, by the time it reached the town, it was lukewarm. God knew what He was talking about it, and

so did Laodicea. God said, that's you! You're lukewarm and like the water that's neither hot or cold, not good for anyone or anything! Like stale bread sitting on a counter, it's there, but it's not good to eat, it's not good for anything. Same could be said for stale faith, a stale Christian, and especially a stale unbeliever. And it ticks God off so much, He said it makes me want to spit you out of my mouth! If you look at that word spit, it's the same word used for vomit. God is saying, it makes me sick! I see you, your potential, your value, but yet I see you, wasted potential and it makes me sick!

—Pastor Chad

Mark 7:6-8 (NLT)

6 Jesus replied, "You hypocrites! Isaiah was right when he prophesied about you, for he wrote, 'These people honor me with their lips, but their hearts are far from me.

7 Their worship is a farce, they teach man-made ideas as commands from God.'

8 For you ignore God's law and substitute your own tradition."

- Turn It Up
 - Don't choose to be lukewarm. Don't be satisfied with being lukewarm.

I love Paul who wrote most of the NT and loved the church so much, he wrote letters to them that have spanned the test of time, 1st to 21st century. Most agree, Paul must have been a sports fan. If you read his writings, he speaks of wrestling, boxing, running, winning the race, winning the prize, winning crowns. He talks about the discipline necessary to win and the danger of being disqualified. He knew the athletic world and when he wanted to sum up his life in 2 Timothy 4:7, he said, "I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith." It makes us ask the questions: Are you fighting the good fight? Are you on track to finish the race? Are you keeping the faith? Are you living it out? If not, turn it up!

—Pastor Chad

Revelation 3:18-19 (NLT)

18 So I advise you to buy gold from me—gold that has been purified by fire. Then you will be rich. Also buy white garments from me so you will not be shamed by your nakedness, and ointment for your eyes so you will be able to see.

19 I correct and discipline everyone I love. So be diligent and turn from your indifference.

God tells the Laodiceans in Revelation 3:19, be diligent and turn from your indifference! What did He say do? Turn! Metanoeo means turn, repent! It means to think differently, reconsider, change your mind! It means to change your life by making different choices! It means to live different and choose Jesus! That's the answer! Turn it up by changing!

—Pastor Chad

- Let Him In

Revelation 3:20-21 (NLT)

20 “Look! I stand at the door and knock. If you hear my voice and open the door, I will come in, and we will share a meal together as friends.

21 Those who are victorious will sit with me on my throne, just as I was victorious and sat with my Father on his throne.

22 Anyone with ears to hear must listen to the Spirit and understand what he is saying to the churches.”

Jesus is at the door knocking, here's the magic word, if! If you hear Him, and if you open the door, He will come in! That if means you have a decision to make. You're lukewarm, that's the same as riding the fence. Choosing to be hot means you choose Jesus. Turn to hot and turn it all the way up because with Jesus it's all or nothing. The opposite is choosing cold, it means taking a stand and admitting to yourself you don't trust enough to believe. And if that's you, it's okay, because it means you have an amazing opportunity to change your life! The problem is if you're lukewarm. It means you haven't made a choice, you're in the middle, and you think everything is okay, or

maybe you have time to decide later, kick the can down the road. It also means you really don't know in your heart where you will spend eternity when you die.

—Pastor Chad

Francis Chan gave this profile of the lukewarm:

Profile of the Lukewarm:

Would you describe yourself as totally in love with Jesus Christ? Or do the words half-hearted, lukewarm, and partially committed fit better? The Bible says to test ourselves, so I am going to offer you a description of what lukewarm people can look like. As you read these examples, I encourage you to take a searching, honest look at who you are now, and how you are living today.

Lukewarm people:

- Attend church fairly regularly. It is what is expected of them, what they believe “good Christians” do, so they go.
- Give money to charity and to the church... as long as it doesn't impinge on their standard of living. If they have a little extra and it is easy and safe to give, they do so.
- Desire to fit in both at church and outside of church; they care more about what people think of their actions than what God thinks of their hearts and lives.
- Don't really want to be saved from their sin; they want only to be saved from the penalty of their sin.
- Are moved by stories about people who do radical things for Christ, yet they do not act. Lukewarm people call “radical” what Jesus expected of all His followers.
- Rarely share their faith with their neighbours, co-workers, or friends. They do not want to be rejected, nor do they want to make people uncomfortable by talking about private issues like religion.
- Gauge their morality or “goodness” by comparing themselves to the secular world. They feel satisfied that they are nowhere as horrible as the guy down the street.
- Say they love Jesus, and He is a part of their lives. But only a part. They give Him a section of their time, money, thoughts, but He isn't allowed to control their lives.
- Love God, but they do not love Him with all their heart, soul, and

strength.

- Love others but do not seek to love others as much as they love themselves.

Don't Be Lukewarm

James 4:17 (MSG)

If you know the right thing to do and don't do it, that, for you, is evil!

It's a sin to know the right thing, but not do it!

Today, make the choice, get off the fence and fully commit to Jesus!