

The Lukewarm Church

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Revelation 3:14-22 Verse by Verse

Rev. 3:14 “And unto the angel of the church of the Laodiceans write; These things saith the Amen, the faithful and true witness, the beginning of the creation of God;” KJV

The "**Amen**" (Ἰμὴν='āmeñ; ἀμήν=amén, = “truly”, “verily”) and "**beginning**" (ἀρχή = chief, corner, first) both indicate that the speaker is Jesus Christ. (2Cor. 1:20 John 1:1 Rev. 1:8) Jesus Christ is depicted in the Bible as the spiritual husband and the church is depicted as the wife (bride). (In those days they were considered to be married from the point of the engagement. The wedding celebration and consummation usually took place about a year later, indicating the future union of the church and Christ on their wedding day in heaven. The engagement period was supposed to be a time of trial and testing in order to prove the virtuous character of both spouses.) (Rev. 19:7-9 2Cor. 11:2 Mat. 25:1-13) If the bride fails the test, she will have no wedding day. At first, the lukewarm church fails the test, but later Jesus Christ, as a husband, tries to tame her with discipline, and get her back on track. (Rev. 3:19)

Will she accept the punishment and become obedient to her husband? Only time will tell. Modern society does not accept the custom of husbands disciplining their wives.

Rev. 3:15 “I know thy works, that thou art neither cold nor hot: I would thou wert cold or hot.” KJV

The word "**cold**" (ψυχρός) is similar to how the church of Ephesus left their first love. (Rev. 2:4) It is also similar to how some “Christians” honor Christ only with lip service and not from the heart. (Mar 7:6 “He (Jesus) answered and said unto them, Well hath Esaias (Isaiah 29:13) prophesied of you hypocrites, as it is written, This people honoureth me with their lips, but their heart is far from me.” KJV **also:** Mat

15:8 “This people draweth nigh unto me with their mouth, and honoureth me with their lips; but their heart is far from me.”) Isa 29:13 “Wherefore the Lord said, Forasmuch as this people draw near *me* with their mouth, and with their lips do honour me, but have removed their heart far from me, and their fear toward me is taught by the precept of men:” The word “**hot**” (ζεστος) indicates spiritual zeal, obedience and closeness to the spiritual husband of the church, Jesus Christ. (2Tim. 1:6) The word “**would**”, in this case, means “wish”. The word “**wert**” is old English for “were”.

Rev. 3:16 “So then because thou art **lukewarm**, and neither cold nor hot, I will spue thee out of my mouth.” KJV

The word “**lukewarm**” (χλιαρος) indicates a repulsive medium temperature drink, like medium temperature water from a faucet. Some lukewarm Christians are at medium temperature all the time. But others are like the medium temperature water you get from a water faucet when you turn on both hot and cold at the same time and let them mix together inside the spigot. Those lukewarm Christians are “hot” only on those occasions when they are fervent for the spiritual husband, the Lord Jesus Christ, thereby giving themselves the impression that they are doing well in the faith.

But they are only “hot” in certain things, at certain places or at certain times. Whereas, when they are “cold” in the faith, they generally ignore it and, as a result, deceive themselves. (Such as when they claim to have the supernatural gifts of the spirit, but they really don't. The churches that claim to have the supernatural gifts are noted for getting very excited (hot) for the Lord during their services.) When their hotness and coldness mix together they become lukewarm. Their hotness is also like having an emotional peak, which always has an emotional valley on the other side. It is when they are in a spiritual valley that Satan attacks them..... and, because they are low, Satan usually gains an advantage. Those churches that falsely teach that they have the supernatural gifts of the spirit are spiritual traps, designed by Satan. (See article listed below on: Wolves in Sheep's Clothing.) 1Ti 4:1 “Now the Spirit speaketh expressly, that in the latter times some shall depart from the faith, giving heed to seducing spirits, and doctrines of devils;” That false teaching that they say they have the supernatural gifts of the spirit is a “**doctrines of devils**”. It is a deceptive lie made to win souls for Satan.

Another good example of their coldness is how most of their congregations don't care about obeying these parts of the Bible: Eph. 5:22-24 “Wives, submit yourselves unto your own husbands, as unto the Lord. For the husband is the head of the wife, even as Christ is the head of the church: and he is the saviour of the body. Therefore as the church is subject unto Christ, so let the wives be to their own husbands in every thing.” God considers it to be **blasphemy** when people disregard this command. Titus 2:4,5 “That they may teach the young women to be keepers at home, good, obedient to their own husbands, that the word of God be not **blasphemed**.”

How is it that nobody in those churches seems to care or even be aware of it? Even after they are informed of it, they still don't care! Even if they say that they care, they still don't do anything about stopping the **blasphemy** going on among their fellow church members! They always get more upset at the person who informs them of the problem in their church than at the people doing the problem. (especially when they are the ones doing the problem.) They don't like being informed that they are lukewarm.

Many of the churches that claim to have received the supernatural gifts of the spirit are also noted for having women leaders over men in their churches. 1Tim. 2:11,12 "Let the woman learn in silence with all subjection. But I suffer not a woman to teach, nor to usurp authority over the man, but to be in silence." **And** 1Cor. 14:34,35 "Let your women keep silence in the churches (assemblies): for it is not permitted unto them to speak; but they are commanded to be under obedience, as also saith the law. And if they will learn any thing, let them ask their husbands at home: for it is a **shame** for women to speak in the church." A "**shame**" means it is a disgrace for men to have a woman as a leader. Most churches that have women in inappropriate positions of authority don't care what the Bible says about it. The rest of the world is corrupting itself, and they are so much in love with the world, that they follow along anyway. Right now the ways of the world is offering good prosperity. 1John 2:15-17 "Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world. If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him. 16- For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world. 17- And the world passeth away, and the lust thereof: but he that doeth the will of God abideth for ever."

The very nature of leadership over men is "masculine". It's not only against the Word of God but it is against nature itself when women are in any "masculine" role. Even outside the church meetings, such as at their jobs, law (legal authority) or in politics. It is abnormal for women to be politicians over men, which causes many people to have abnormal physical desires. Many times people start to have abnormal romantic desires for their own gender, but they don't know why. The primary cause comes from women acting macho, because it is against nature. **IT IS ABNORMAL.** This is the main purpose of the modern "feminist" movement. (See article listed below on: The Consequences of "Women's Liberation".)

Women in politics should be thought of in the same category and the same nature as same gender marriages and romances. All through history, no society that has ever permitted this corruption has not suffered disaster because of it. However, our concern ought to be that it is against the correct teachings of the Bible. Gender role reversal causes physical desire confusion in many people. In the Bible, God rained fire down from heaven on Sodom and Gomorrah for this type of corruption. (Gen. 19) The punishment for this sin is supposed to be death. Lev. 20:13 "If a man

also lie with mankind, as he lieth with a woman, both of them have committed an abomination: they shall surely be put to death; their blood shall be upon them.” If someone says that God is wrong, they are speaking **BLASPHEMY!!!** God is the one who makes the rules! Especially what happens to people after they die. (See article listed below on: The Consequences of “Women’s Liberation”.)

According to Louis Crompton, Ph.D. on early American history, referring to this abomination..... “in 1776, in the original 13 colonies was universally subject to the death penalty”. However, later on, the penalty for this crime was reduced to long-term imprisonment. As time went by, little by little, the US government decreased the punishment for this crime to less and less time in prison. Eventually, they completely repealed all the laws against it. And now, we have the reverse; it is now taboo to say anything against it.

The subject of “same gender” marriages is not necessarily about the legalization of that type of marriage. It is about the natural human reaction to the practice of giving women dominant positions over men (not women over women). Gender role reversal alters many people's physical desires. Most people exposed to this abnormality don't know if they're more attracted to the opposite gender, their own gender, both or neither, without ever knowing why.

The whole idea of female politicians and bosses over men at work goes hand in hand with raising many people's romantic attraction to their own gender, thus increasing the quantity of same gender romances, many of which eventually start living together as a result. (The legalization of this type of marriage becomes a secondary issue. The corruption has already been in full swing for a long time now.) Female politicians and bosses over men are equally abnormal and responsible for same gender romantic relationships >>> cause and effect.

A good example in the Bible of one of those female religious and political leaders was Queen Jezebel the wife of King Ahab, who had spread the worship of the false god Baal in Israel. The end of that accursed woman would be a very fitting end of all those women pastors in churches corrupting Christianity. (And female politicians and female bosses over men. Not women bosses over women.) The man Jehu had her thrown down out of an upper window of a building, then he had his chariot horses trample her under their hooves, crushing her bones like what happened to the villain during the Roman chariot race in the 1959 film Ben-Hur. (See the chariot race clip on YouTube.) Then the dogs came and ate her. She never had a funeral or a burial. [2Ki 9:36, 37](#) “.....And he said, This is the word of the LORD, which he spake by his servant (prophet) Elijah the Tishbite, saying, In the portion of Jezreel shall dogs eat the flesh of Jezebel: 37- And the carcase of Jezebel shall be as dung upon the face of the field.....” So that, if anyone in those days saw some dog droppings laying on the ground they might say, “there lies Jezebel”, as though they were looking at her grave and mocking her with laughter. How appropriate!

The worst case of hypocrisy is when the subject of all male leadership over women is taught correctly at certain churches, the people listen to it and receive it warmly and think that they are doing well in their spiritual walk with God. They think that they are gliding down the highway of spiritual success, merely by being well taught of correct Bible doctrine. Then they go home and don't put it into practice, yet at the same time they think that they do. This is because they create a false image in their minds of what it means for a husband to direct his wife. The truth is, that the wife dominates her husband in almost every marriage.

The acceptance of women in macho roles in society, such as female bosses over men at work or female politicians, causes a lot of confusion in people's minds. When Christians accept female leadership over men outside the church and home, it corrupts their minds. And, it is particularly bad when churches allow their own members to participate in such corruption outside the church meetings.

The pastors who teach this doctrine correctly usually play Ostrich with their heads in the sand and don't even know what their church members are doing after they leave the church meetings. Those pastors are usually making good money with very little work to do, so why would they ever want to do anything unpopular and rock the boat? They're more in love with the comfortable money they're making than they're in love with God. Of course, most of those pastors are really "wolves in sheep's clothing". (See article listed below on: Wolves in Sheep's Clothing.)

Sometimes female church members themselves are in macho roles outside of church meetings, like being bosses over men at work or being politicians. (from the position of president all the way down to the drivers license clerk who gives men permission to drive.) Those female church members should be excommunicated from the church for doing such things. But most church leaders won't even recognize that there is a problem, nor do they have any perception about what is causing the problems which they cannot control. They usually get more upset at the person who informs them of the problem than at the problem itself. (Problem? What problem? They didn't even know there was a problem. They are so arrogant that they think their church is somehow immune from errors. No wonder they hate the person who informs them that there is a problem.)

The closest real life example of how a husband should direct his wife is how a boss at work directs his employees. Yet, if a husband were to really direct his wife the same way that a boss directs his employees, the people in most of those churches that teach male leadership in the home would think that such a husband is being very abusive and tyrannical. You see, they have created a false mental imagination of what it means for a man to lead his wife. So, their correct teaching becomes hypocrisy.

Furthermore, if the women from most of those churches went to work and obeyed their bosses the same way that they obey their husbands, they would get fired. All those women would lose their jobs. American churches do not care that their church

members are blaspheming God! [Titus 2:4,5](#) “That they may teach the young women to be keepers at home, good, obedient to their own husbands, that the word of God be not **blasphemed**.” The truth is, that in the majority of American marriages, it is the wife who dominates her husband, and the pastors don’t even recognize it as a problem. But, God says it is **blasphemy**!

Yet another example of how a husband should direct his wife is how a teacher in a good university teaches and trains his students during class. If he is a good teacher he doesn’t just spoon feed information (knowledge) to his students, he forms their minds through a training process so that they think like real professionals in whatever major they are studying. How is it that such a normal and good authoritative arrangement is so well excepted in education, but if a husband were to treat his wife with the same good leadership, he would be labeled a tyrant, or be labeled as the worst criminal wife-abuser in the world?

[Rev. 3:16](#) “So then because thou art lukewarm, and neither cold nor hot, I will **spue thee out of my mouth**.” KJV

The word “**spue**” KJV (or: spew, spit) in this case means "vomit" (εμεσαι). Notice – the lukewarm church consists of truly saved, yet corrupted, Christians. There are many truly saved Christians who imagine that they are immune from being lukewarm simply because they are truly saved. There are some churches that have incorrect teaching concerning this subject in that they assume that a “lukewarm” Christian was never really saved to begin with. They think that a lukewarm Christian is only a Christian in name and not in truth (not in spirit).

However, the lukewarm church even has a golden candlestick and a star in the presence of Christ, in heaven, thus indicating that they truly were saved. ([Rev. 1:10-20](#)) [Rev 1:20](#) “The mystery of the seven stars which thou sawest in my right hand, and the seven golden candlesticks. The seven stars are the angels of the seven churches: and the seven candlesticks which thou sawest are the seven churches.” Also, if indeed the lukewarm Christians were never really saved to begin with, then Jesus Christ would be vomiting something out of his mouth that was never in his mouth to begin with. The existence of them in his mouth is clear evidence of their true salvation. (See article listed below on: Salvation.)

The "vomit" indicates that the lukewarm church nauseates Jesus Christ. The vomiting also symbolizes a spiritual divorce (separation), which is the loss of intimacy, closeness and fellowship with the spiritual husband Jesus Christ. The purpose of the divorce is to get the disobedient wife to repent of her bad conduct and return to her one and only true husband. (See article listed below on: Correct Divorce.)

The “eternal security” doctrine is not capable of handling this subject. [Rev 2:5](#) “Remember therefore from whence thou art fallen, and repent, and do the first works; or else I will come unto thee quickly, and will remove thy candlestick out of his place, except thou repent.” The “eternal security” doctrine teaches that it is not possible for

the candlestick in heaven to ever be moved from its place and, that doctrine also un-motivates people to live holy lives; they think they're saved anyway..... and they don't have to worry about living a holy life..... and end up walking in sin. The “eternal security” doctrine is in part true and in part false. (See article listed below on: Salvation.)

The way the “eternal security” doctrine is presented in those churches is a false contamination to faithful Bible doctrine. There is a sense in which the “eternal security” doctrine is true and a sense in which it is **not** true. (See article listed below on: Salvation.) **1Co 3:13-15** “Every man's work shall be made manifest: for the day shall declare it, because it shall be revealed by fire; and the fire shall try every man's work of what sort it is. 14- If any man's work abide which he hath built thereupon, he shall receive a reward. 15- If any man's work shall be burned, he shall suffer loss: but he himself shall be saved; yet so as by fire.” People saved in this manner are saved as though they were pulled out of their own house fire. Sure, they're saved, but they lost every possession they had in their own house fire. The best Old Testament example of this was Lot. (Gen. 19)

There is a big difference between this kind of salvation as compared to living with riches in the royal palace with the king (in the kingdom of God) and participating in running the government with an official position appointed by the king. (See article listed below on: Salvation.) This “house fire” type of salvation is similar to Lot's salvation. (Gen. 19) Lot escaped with nothing more than the clothes on his back..... but his wife didn't make it. (Gen. 19:26) (This demonstrates the contrast between the eternal security doctrine vs. the non-eternal security doctrine, that is: is it or is it not possible for someone to lose their salvation? See article listed below on: Salvation.) In Lot's salvation, he will escape the hell fire, but he will have no part in the marriage supper of the Lamb, nor will he be admitted into the New City of Jerusalem. Only the kings enter there. Lot lost his crown and eternal inheritance. But, he didn't lose his salvation from hell fire.

Most of those churches that don't accept the true salvation of the lukewarm church also don't accept that a truly saved person could ever be divorced from Jesus Christ, the husband of the church. In Jer. 3:8 God says to the nation of Israel: “..... **whereby backsliding Israel committed adultery I had put her away, and given her a bill of divorce;....**”. This was literally applied when the Babylonian army attacked Israel, killed most of the people and carried the few survivors back to Babylon as slaves. (2Ki. 24:19-20 2Ki. 25:1-7 Psa 137:1-4) The term “**adultery**” means spiritual idolatry = the worship of other gods. The number one idol of modern churches is MONEY.

Since God considered his spiritual relationship with Israel to be a marriage (Jer. 3:14), therefore, when they started worshiping other “gods” (idols) it was treated the same way as if a wife had been in adultery with another man, other than her husband. The fact that God considers Himself “married” to them indicates their true salvation. It is inappropriate to imagine that they are only saved by name and not in truth. A

woman who was never really married to begin with cannot commit adultery against a husband which she never really had.

The most significant “idol” of the lukewarm church is their love of money and love of worldly luxuries. [1Tim 6:10](#) “For the love of money is the root of all evil: which while some coveted after, they have erred from the faith, and pierced themselves through with many sorrows.” They claim to be rich (US middle class). But, they worship and love money more than God. [Rev. 3:17](#) “Because thou sayest, I am rich, and increased with goods, and have need of nothing.....” (as seen below) [Mat 6:24](#) “No man can serve two masters: for either he will hate the one, and love the other; or else he will hold to the one, and despise the other. Ye cannot serve God and mammon (money, wealth).”

In the case of Israel, the most common cause of their falling into the worshipping of false “gods” (idols) was by the intermarriage of their people with people of other false religions who worshiped other “gods” (idols). (They were supposed to marry only people within the true religion.) In a faithful religion, intermarriage with people from any other false religion or atheism is strictly prohibited. Any outsider must be converted first and show their faithful compliant conduct over a period of time (recommended one year) before they can marry anyone in the true faith. There is only one exception to this rule in the Bible, which was in the case of a slave-wife (concubine). These “concubines” were usually cases of captive prisoners taken after a victorious military battle. ([Deut. 21:10-14](#)) But, this same rule could also apply to a slave-wife (concubine) purchased with money. (See article listed below on: Slavery.) (There is also an exception to the one year test period for cases like Ruth; she proved her faithfulness in less than a year.)

It must also be understood that inappropriate intermarriage dilutes the race, whatever that race happens to be. Most of the tribes of Native American Indians no longer exist because they have intermarried over the years with people coming from the European settlers. And now, the only place Native American Indians can be found as a pure race is where they have only married their own people, such as on Indian reservations. So also, Christianity dies out when Christians intermarry with outsiders; it makes Christians lukewarm and they lose interest in faithful Christian living, especially the second and third generations after the intermarriage.

Another example is the Jews. For almost 2,000 years they lived outside of their homeland, Israel, mixed in with other nations. If they had openly intermarried with other races, today no Jews would exist. For almost 2,000 years they were very strict about demanding their own people not to intermarry with outsiders. If any Jew intermarried, the faithful Jews would shun that person and treat them as though he/she was dead. (Excommunication) The faithful Jews would not speak, nor write, nor communicate with any of their people who intermarried outside their group. The famous 1971 film “Fiddler on the Roof” dramatizes this principle quite well. This strict discipline is the only reason that Jews are still in existence today.

In the modern “lukewarm” churches there is a problem of Christians intermarrying with any outsider they want. Even among the few churches that teach against it, when their members do it anyway, their church leaders do nothing about it. Correct Bible teaching says that those Christians who have intermarried with non-Christian outsiders or corrupt Christians must be excommunicated from the church and from any of their natural family who are members of the faithful church.

All of those improper marriages must be expected to break up. [Ezr 10:2,3](#) “And Shechaniah the son of Jehiel, one of the sons of Elam, answered and said unto Ezra, We have trespassed against our God, and have taken strange wives of the people of the land: yet now there is hope in Israel concerning this thing. 3- Now therefore let us make a covenant with our God to put away all the wives, and such as are born of them, according to the counsel of my lord, and of those that tremble at the commandment of our God; and let it be done according to the law.” ([Neh 13:25](#) “And I contended with them, and cursed them, and smote (beat) certain of them, and plucked off (ripped out) their hair, and made them swear by God, saying, Ye shall not give your daughters unto their sons, nor take their daughters unto your sons, or for yourselves.” [Neh 13:28](#) And one of the sons of Joiada, the son of Eliashib the high priest, was son in law to Sanballat the Horonite: therefore I chased him from me. (He ran him out of town, banished, excommunicated him.) (Notice, in these two examples, Ezra pulled out his own hair, after he found out that this problem was continuing. [Ezr 9:3](#). Whereas, Nehemiah ripped out the hair of the guilty people who had intermarried with outsiders. That was much more appropriate.) [Neh 13:25](#) “And I contended with them, and cursed them, and smote certain of them, and plucked off (ripped off) their hair, and made them swear by God, saying, Ye shall not give your daughters unto their sons, nor take their daughters unto your sons, or for yourselves.”

Any church that refuses to put this into practice must be considered an unfaithful or at best, a lukewarm church. If, by chance, there are a few faithful Christians who do not wish to be lukewarm in the faith, they must leave those lukewarm churches and any friends or family members who insist on staying there. They must leave after advising them of their corruption and the need for change. [Mat 18:15-17](#) “Moreover if thy brother shall trespass against thee, go and tell him his fault between thee and him alone: if he shall hear thee, thou hast gained thy brother. 16- But if he will not hear thee, then take with thee one or two more, that in the mouth of two or three witnesses every word may be established. 17- And if he shall neglect to hear them, tell it unto the church: but if he neglect to hear the church, let him be unto thee as an heathen man and a publican.” (publican=tax collector, who everyone would avoid.) Only these Christians who separate themselves (shun, excommunicate) from corruption will escape the punishment of the lukewarm church. In this modern case of mass corruption, the faithful few must “excommunicate” the mass of people in the corrupt churches from themselves.

A good **modern** example of the “divorce” or “vomiting” or “carrying away into captivity” is how the Nazis, during WW2, removed the Jews from their homes and put them in ghettos and forced them to do slave labor without pay. (They were given a little bit of food, but no money.)

The word “**spue**” KJV (spew, spit, vomit) is a prophecy that the lukewarm church will be physically and literally removed from their homes (or homelands) and taken far away as slaves. This is a physical manifestation of Jesus Christ “divorcing” or “repudiating” His half-faithful wife (bride), the lukewarm church. (See article listed below on: Correct Divorce.) They will be made eunuchs (corrupt, ruin their seed = castrated) and dung (excrement) will be spread on their faces. **Mal 2:3** “Behold, I will corrupt your seed, and spread dung (excrement) upon your faces,..... and one shall take you away with it.” They will be taken far away as slaves with dung spread on their faces, and castrated. (It is important that there not be another generation with this type of corruption.) (See article listed below on: The Babylonian and Egyptian Captivity.)

It is probable that God will be so offended that He will command nature itself to vomit the inhabitants out of the land. **Lev. 18:27,28** “For all these abominations have the men of the land done, which were before you, and the land is defiled; That the land spue (vomit) not you out also, when ye defile it, as it spued (vomited) out the nations that were before you.” (Also: **Lev. 20:22**) A **modern** example of this was the “dust bowl” during the Great Depression when the land itself, in many parts of the US, refused to produce crops and many farmers were forced to leave their farmland. The land itself, mostly in the US Midwest, started to have sand storms and sand dunes like in a desert. It was so bad that those people were forced to leave their land. **Deut. 28:23, 24** “And thy heaven that is over thy head shall be brass, and the earth that is under thee shall be iron. The Lord shall make the rain of thy land powder and dust: from heaven shall it come down upon thee, until thou be destroyed.” (See article listed below on: The Suffering Of The Great Depression.) (Also see: The Consequences of “Women's Liberation”.) (Internet search: “dust bowl” images.) (Also see PBS documentary: “The Dust Bowl”.) (Also see **Pulitzer Prize** winning **novel** 1939 and 1940 film “The Grapes of Wrath”.)

Samson was an Old Testament example of someone lukewarm in the faith. Samson was a true believer in God and even appointed by God to be a judge over the people..... but Samson had a weakness for women. (**Jud. 13-16**) There are some churches that teach that a true Christian cannot fall into any error such as the one that Samson did. Yet, sometimes they still think that Samson was a true man of God. (They contradict themselves, which is usually the result of an error from the “eternal security” doctrine. They think they are immune from error.)

Another OT example of someone lukewarm in the faith was Lot. Lot was a true believer in God and was even able to recognize the spiritual nature of the angels which God had sent to him, who appeared to him like normal physical human beings. (**Gen. 19**) But Lot was too much in love with the prosperity of Sodom to leave it. As a result,

the angels had to literally pull him by the hand out of Sodom just before God rained fire down from heaven and destroyed it. Lot also lost **all** of his worldly possessions. He was removed (saved) with nothing more than the clothes on his back. Just like the lukewarm church, Lot's idol was money, luxury and prosperity. (2Pet 2:7,8)

A case of someone in the Bible who started out good but ended up bad was Balaam, who was a true prophet of God and even prophesied part of the true Word of God. (Numbers 22-24) Yet, just like the lukewarm church, Balaam corrupted himself for the love of money and worldly luxuries, thereby making himself an enemy of God. (Jude 1:11; Rev. 2:14) 2Pet 2:15,16 “Which have forsaken the right way, and are gone astray, following the way of Balaam the son of Bosor, who loved the wages of unrighteousness; 16- But was rebuked for his iniquity: the dumb ass (mute donkey) speaking with man's voice forbad the madness of the prophet.” KJV God would not have done this if Balaam was a satanic wolf in sheep's clothing. He was definitely a true prophet of God. (Heb 12:6-8) It is possible for someone who starts out truly good to end up very bad. Gal. 1:8 “But though we, or an angel from heaven, preach any other gospel unto you than that which we have preached unto you, let him be accursed.” KJV

Rev. 3:17 “Because thou sayest, I am rich, and increased with goods, and have need of nothing; and knowest not that thou art wretched, and miserable, and poor, and blind, and naked:” KJV

The word “**rich**” (πλουσιος) is a prophecy that the lukewarm church will be worldly wealthy. Only in this last century have there been large quantities of church members who have had lots of money (US middle class), in comparison to church members in the US before WW2. All over the world most of the common people are much better off, economically speaking, than their own people were before WW2. Notice that the lukewarm Christians think that they are both worldly “rich” and also spiritually “rich”. They think that they are gliding down the highway of spiritual success and expect to hear the Lord say to them in the next life, “Well done, thou good and faithful servant: thou hast been faithful over a few things, I will make thee ruler over many things: enter thou into the joy of thy lord.” Mat 25:21.

The lukewarm church consists of truly saved Christians, who even have a golden candlestick and star in the presence of Jesus Christ in heaven (Rev. 1:10-20), yet their love of money has blinded them so that they cannot perceive their own spiritual corruption. They think they are immune from being lukewarm and they would hate any person who informs them otherwise.

Many of them also teach the “prosperity” doctrine in their church meetings, that is, they teach it is God's will that Christians ought to be “prosperous” and wealthy. Notice that the “prosperity” doctrine churches are, most of the time, also the ones who falsely claim to have received the supernatural “sign gifts” of the Holy Spirit. (See

article listed below on: Wolves In Sheep's Clothing.) Other churches won't teach the "prosperity" doctrine in their meetings because they think it sounds worldly, unspiritual and lukewarm. Yet, at the same time, they pursue worldly wealth just as much or more than the churches that preach the "prosperity" doctrine.

One way to see how those **non**-"prosperity" doctrine churches pursue worldly wealth is how they won't consider leaving the comfort of the US to be missionaries in a poor country. Rarely are they ever seen outside the US as missionaries, especially the Baptists. The only time an American Baptist will consider being a missionary is when there is no other work available, and the financial support from hometown American churches is good. The Baptists are very common in America. But, in the poor countries, those poor people have rarely even seen a Baptist, much less heard of one.

Whereas, the "prosperity" doctrine churches, which are usually, the "sign gifts" of the Holy Spirit churches (along with the Mormons and Jehovah's Witnesses) have permeated almost every corner of the world. **Mark 16:15** "And he said unto them, Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature." **1John 2:15-17** "Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world. If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him. For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world. And the world passeth away, and the lust thereof: but **he that doeth the will of God abideth for ever.**" KJV

The few rare exceptions to this rule about how those **non**-"prosperity" doctrine churches refuse to be missionaries are people who are always well supported with regular good salaries by their American churches and live outside the US more like they are on a permanent all expense paid comfortable vacation than like real missionaries. Most of them had been on vacation at some time previously and saw how nice it is to live as a missionary in those places. Then, as a result, they suddenly get a revelation from God that God has somehow called them to live that same comfortable lifestyle, with very little or no work to do. Some of them do practically/absolutely nothing seven days a week. (See article listed below on: Southern Baptist Convention Church, SBC.)

Supposedly, they go out as missionaries, but they live like kings in the middle of peasants. The poor people who see those "missionaries" end up with a very twisted perception of what a "missionary" is supposed to be. Some of those poor people can't imagine that there exists a better job in the world than being a church leader, especially a Baptist church missionary. Some of those poor people become so obsessed with it that they can no longer do regular work..... all they can think about is being in..... "the ministry" and getting American churches to send them financial support so that they can have a nice easy comfortable job like the American Baptist missionaries with very little or no work to do all week long. The American Baptists are more like this than any other church.

Notice – this lukewarm corruption is not a question of how much money someone has. The poor foreigners who are so much in love with the American missionary life-style don't have much money. It is a condition of the heart >>> the love of money more than love of God. Thus, it is possible for a poor person to be just as lukewarm as a rich person. In fact, if they had the opportunity, those poor lukewarmers would probably become missionaries going to the US. The land of prosperity would be the favorite mission territory for almost all world-wide foreign missionaries to come and work. Most of the American churches like to think of themselves as the source of spiritual progress that sends its missionary workers out into the world. As Jesus said: [Mark 16:15](#) “..... Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature.” But, in reality, the missionary workers from “all the world” are coming to the land of prosperity to “preach the gospel to every creature”, so that they can do God's work while they enjoy the land of prosperity. That way they can be: [Rev. 3:17](#) “.....rich, and increased with goods, and have need of nothing.”

A few churches have handled this problem of church leaders as missionaries living inappropriately by going to an un-Biblical extreme; they refuse to even give their church leaders their correct titles, such as “pastor”, “elder” or “missionary”. Their churches have leaders, but in order to avoid this problem of the corruption they see in those American missionaries in the other churches, they just refuse to give their leaders their “official” titles. They call all the leaders “brother _____” the same way they call all the other church members “brother [Joe](#)” or “brother [Bill](#)”, thereby eliminating any possibility of an official church leader falling into the corruption they see in those foreign American missionaries.

They refuse to even admit that their leaders really are the leaders. They say that everyone in the church are equal “brothers”. They fail to even recognize that their leaders really are leaders. Reality dictates that leaders must exist, all sheep must have a shepherd or else the sheep will absolutely wander astray. The sheep will also be prey to any wolf that comes along.

But in the case of **this** particular movement, they have remained fixed in this doctrine for many years now. It is the leaders who don't have any official title that keep them from wandering astray. It is the leaders who maintain this custom that the leaders don't have any official title. Without leaders to maintain their customs, the customs would not continue. In other words, they have leaders..... but they don't want to admit openly that they have leaders..... and they refuse to give their leaders any official title. This way they never have any leader who falls into error. The Jehovah's Witnesses have used a similar tactic by keeping the names of their leaders secret, so that if they fall into corruption, nobody will even know who they are.

There was a very large movement like this that started in another country outside the US. They used this method of dealing with leadership corruption, because of the corruption they saw in the foreign missionaries there. However, this type of resolution

is **not** taught in the Bible. The NT teaches that the church is supposed to select “official” leaders and that, in the event that they fall into corruption, the corrupt leaders should be removed, that is..... “un-selected” or “un-ordained” as official leaders. Corrupt leaders need to have their “ordination” revoked. (Tit. 1:5 1Tim. 3:1-7)

This method of handling “corruption” among the missionaries was very offensive to the missionaries who were considered to be “corrupt”. And, as it so happened in that movement, which refused to give their leaders any “official” titles as church leaders, they were having enormous evangelistic success. They were converting enormous quantities of new people to their organization, which was completely independent from any of those missionaries who were sent to them from other long time traditional churches, mostly coming from the US. They had so many new people that they couldn’t count them all.

However, this new movement was making a very serious mistake. Since they were getting such a large quantity of new people converted into their organization, they had neglected to be diligent about verifying the repentance of their new converts. For example, among their many new converts were a lot of prostitutes, who had not discontinued their profession. And, they were using money obtained in their profession to give donations to their evangelistic movement. So, after a while, those leaders, who refused to accept any “official” title as church leaders were accused of maintaining a prostitution business to support their movement. And..... who was doing the accusing? Who published the advertisements that informed everyone about the prostitutes? Obviously, it was the other offended “corrupt” church leaders.

As a result, the entire gigantic movement completely collapsed. All the people left and never came back. There were no more meetings. All of the leaders who had no “official” title were forced to go and seek some other job as means of self-support. The leaders who established this methodology of refusing to use official titles as leaders just happened to be very young. Doesn’t this methodology sound childish? 1Tim 3:6-7 “Not a novice, lest being lifted up with pride he fall into the condemnation of the devil. 7- Moreover he must have a good report of them which are without; lest he fall into reproach and the snare of the devil.” Both Jesus and John the Baptizer waited until they were thirty years old before they started. This sounds like a good age to start. (Num 4:23)

Some of those “corrupt” American missionaries don't even teach or give messages in church meetings or do any evangelistic church planting. (Start new churches) (Especially the American Baptists missionaries.) Many times they just act more like occasional part-time supervisors to make sure that their already established churches don't go astray. (The word “supervisor” is used very loosely, because some of those churches, like the Baptists, are very “independent” and don't allow that type of

hierarchy. Yet their missionaries do it anyway even though it is against their own official church policy. After all, if they didn't do this, they would have nothing else to do. (About the only thing they have to do is watch for any unknown new person who comes in who wants to make changes..... like me.) (Such a new person they would label an enemy, a “wolf in sheep’s clothing”.) How about that!?! The “wolves in sheep’s clothing” have the real sheep so well trained that when a true spiritual leader comes along, the sheep perceive him as a “wolf in sheep’s clothing”, when the real “wolves in sheep's clothing” are accepted as the leaders of their church. (See article listed below on: Wolves in Sheep’s Clothing.)

At other times their only work is to distribute money to local pastors from support money sent to them from US churches. In some places the church members are so poor that it is impossible for the churches to support their own pastors. This practice is very common among the Baptists. This practice of sending support money prevents them from needing more than just a few US missionaries. For every dollar sent, the American Baptist missionary keeps \$.50 for themselves and the other \$.50 they distribute to local native church leaders, so that all the work of new church planting is done by local native evangelists.

What else do those US Baptist missionaries do with their time? They do absolutely no work at all. They are on an all expense paid comfortable continual vacation. Remember, these missionaries come from the **non-**“prosperity” teaching churches in America, which usually have a hard time even getting anyone at all to be a missionary. It's much more convenient to just send money and let the foreigners do their own evangelizing and new church planting, supported with American money. That way, the Americans in those **non-**prosperity teaching churches don't have to leave the comforts of rich-town USA to be missionaries..... All with a clear conscience. However, those foreign recipients of that American missionary money have learned from the American example to be more in love with the American luxurious life-style than about doing any real work evangelizing new converts. So, most of that money gets spent on luxury items, not on time spent converting new people.

It must also be noted that, in the last 50 years or so, the “prosperity” doctrine churches, who usually falsely teach that they have received the supernatural “sign gifts” of the Holy Spirit, have been very successful at evangelizing and spreading throughout almost all of the poor countries around the world, whereas the **non-**“prosperity” teaching churches, like the Baptists, who usually don't teach that they have the supernatural gifts of the Spirit, are rarely seen outside the US in any of the poor countries, except for a few of the “continual vacation missionaries” mentioned in the previous paragraph. In most of the poor countries, around the world, the number of these types of churches are so few that the poor people have never heard of such a church existing anywhere. When they hear the name “Baptist”, they don’t have the slightest idea who they are or what they teach.

These **non**-“prosperity” teaching churches, in the US, are big fat lukewarmers who could never imagine themselves as being lukewarm (they are blinded by their love of money, Rev 3:17). They could never see it (blind) and they would hate the person who informs them of it. Rather than repenting of their lukewarmness, they prefer to oppose anyone who points out their lukewarmness. More than likely they would consider the true spiritual leader, who points out their true lukewarmness, to be a “wolf in sheep’s clothing”, or maybe the “Anti-Christ”, because he will be responsible for the punishment of the lukewarm church.

There also exists a few “rich” Christians (US middle class) who don’t want to think of themselves as being “rich”, because they don’t want to consider even the possibility of themselves being lukewarm. They can justify this to themselves simply by incorrectly evaluating their own “prosperity” by always comparing themselves to someone who is more prosperous than themselves, which makes them feel **not** “rich”. But, they only do that because they don’t want to think of themselves as being part of the “rich” lukewarm church. Remember, this corruption is a condition of the heart, not the bank account. (The poor people who are in love with money are equally as lukewarm as the “rich” people who are in love with money.)

Never before have there ever been so many “rich” Christians (US middle class). The prophecy of the rise of a large “rich” lukewarm church has now been fulfilled within the last 70 years or so. However, the prophecy about Jesus Christ disciplining his wife (bride), the lukewarm church, is yet future and probably close at hand. (Rev. 3:19) (See article listed below on: “The New World Order was Prophesied in the Bible”). In the same way that this future “close at hand” period of discipline for the lukewarm church (bride of Christ) has been predictable, likewise before the existence of the “rich” lukewarm church, its coming should have been equally as predictable. In other words the period of discipline is definitely coming soon. When? Obviously, there first must be a “rich” church. And then..... the time of discipline will come when God says so.

Some people put a lot of emphasis on the prophecy of the coming “rapture”, found in: 1Th 4:16,17 “For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first: 17- Then we which are alive and remain shall be **caught up** (raptured) together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord.” **And** Mat 24:40-42 “Then shall two be in the field; the one shall be taken, and the other left. 41- Two women shall be grinding at the mill; the one shall be taken, and the other left. 42- Watch therefore: for ye know not what hour your Lord doth come.” However, the “rapture” cannot happen until after the prophecy of the discipline of the “rich” lukewarm church is fulfilled. The word “rapture” comes from the Latin Bible translation of the phrase **caught up** in 1Th 4:17, quoted above. The “rap-

ture” is the same thing as how God took Enoch and Elijah up directly to heaven without dying. ([Gen 5:24](#), [2Ki 2:11](#))

Rev. 3:17 “Because thou sayest, I am rich, and increased with goods, and have need of nothing; and knowest not that thou art wretched, and miserable, and poor, and blind, and naked:” KJV

When it says “**knowest not that thou art.....**” it is referring to two things. **First**, at the same time that they think they are spiritually “rich” and gliding down the highway of spiritual success, they are inwardly spiritually poor and far from their spiritual husband, yet they are incapable of perceiving it. (Their riches have blinded them.) Their leaders, who are mostly “wolves in sheep's clothing”, have deceived them into thinking that they are something that they are not. Their corrupt leaders have taught them that they are immune from being lukewarm. It is the “wolves in sheep's clothing” who have taught them that they are immune from being deceived by “wolves in sheep's clothing”. They don't even care if some or most of the people in their congregations are living in adultery ([Mark 10:11,12](#)), committing idolatry ([Col. 3:5](#)) or blaspheming God ([Titus 2:4,5](#)). (See article listed below on: Wolves in Sheep's Clothing.)

[Mat. 7:21-23](#) “Not every one that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that **doeth the will of my Father** which is in heaven. Many will say to me in that day, Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in thy name? and in thy name have cast out devils? and in thy name done many wonderful works? And then will I profess unto them, I never knew you: depart from me, ye that work iniquity.” KJV Not everyone who calls Jesus Christ “Lord” is accepted by Him. Only those who OBEY Him, as He said, those who “**doeth the will of my Father**” are accepted. ([Mat. 12:46-50](#)) Is there any “middle class” church in the US where any of the wives obey their husbands correctly according to God's word? There probably isn't. (Except possibly the Amish.) In the typical American church, the majority of families have the wife dominating her husband, which God calls “**blasphemy**” and “witchcraft”. Yet, they think that they are gliding down the highway of spiritual success. They think they are obeying the spiritual husband Jesus Christ while most of the wives in their churches are not obeying their own husbands.

If you ask them how to determine what the will of God is (“**the will of my Father**”), they usually don't have the slightest clue. They can't even determine what the will of God is, much less obey it. If it was the will of God that they should be missionaries, they would never know it, much less do it. They usually have their spiritual earplugs in, so that they can't even hear such things. That way they never have to do anything they don't want to do. In some cases, they would refuse to do God's will because, in a poor country, they might have to use an outhouse instead of a regular bathroom. God never reveals His will to anyone who is unwilling to do it. Those people will have no part in the kingdom of God in the next life. They've lost their crown and their eternal inheritance. They've traded their eternal crown for a few insignificant

temporary luxuries now. Try to imagine someone losing their eternal crown because they refused to leave their toilet.

The modern practice of putting women in positions of authority **over men** has only been widespread since the “women's liberation” movement in the 1960's. Previously, female authority **over men** was considered abnormal behavior by most of the people in the US. (Notice, this is not concerning positions of authority of women over other women or of women over children.) And yet now..... is there any church in the US that **prohibits** their female members from having positions of authority **over men** at work or in adult education or in the government? (All levels and departments **over men**, from the position of president all the way down to the drivers license clerk who gives men permission to drive.)

It is not possible for a woman to have one of those positions of authority **over men** and then return home and be obedient to her husband. Female church members who accept any of those positions of authority **over men** should be excommunicated from the church. (See article listed below on: The Consequences of “Women's Liberation”.) The obvious conclusion is that probably every single church in the US is, at best, lukewarm. (Except possibly the Amish.) Nevertheless, they can repent of their lukewarmness at any time.

Secondly, this is a prophecy that there will soon be a time of discipline for their disobedient lukewarmness. The same way that any good and loving husband should discipline his disobedient wife, Jesus Christ is about to take their material wealth away from them. They will be conquered and taken far away as slaves just as God did to Israel in the Babylonian captivity. ([Mat. 1:17](#) [2Chr. 36:20](#) [2Ki. 25:1-21](#) [Deut. 28](#)) (See article listed below on: Babylonian and Egyptian Captivity.) (Also see article listed below on: Domestic Discipline.)

Rev. 3:17 “Because thou sayest, I am rich, and increased with goods, and have need of nothing; and knowest not that thou art **wretched**, and **miserable**, and **poor**, and **blind**, and naked:” KJV

The word "**wretched**" (ταλαιπωρος) means to be “afflicted” or “enduring heavy toils” like slaves who have to do heavy or rigorous work. The word "**miserable**" (ελεεινος) means "pitiable" like a street beggar that nobody helps. The word "**poor**" (πτωχος) indicates that all their material goods will be taken away from them; all those riches they were so much in love with. Slaves have no possessions of their own. Everything they have belongs to their masters.

The word "**blind**" (τυφλος) indicates primarily that they are spiritually blind, that is, their spiritual perception has been blinded by their love of money. If it was God's will that they become missionaries, especially in a poor country, they would never even

know it, much less do it, because they are wearing spiritual earplugs, so that they don't have to hear anything they don't want to hear. They think they are gliding down the highway of spiritual success, yet they are not capable of perceiving that the truth is the opposite. Consequently, God will permit their physical eyes to be blinded as punishment, hoping that they will wake up and repent.

A good OT example of this was Samson. [Jdg. 16:21](#) “But the Philistines took him, and **put out his eyes**, and brought him down to Gaza, and bound him with fetters of brass; and he did grind in the prison house.” Another example is the warning of Joshua, who told Israel what their enemies would do to them if they did not obey God. [Jos. 23:13](#) “...but they shall be snares and traps unto you, and scourges in your sides, and **thorns in your eyes**,” In [1Sam. 11:2](#) the enemies of Israel threatened to put out every man's right eye. (Also: [Num. 33:55](#) “But if ye will not drive out the inhabitants of the land from before you; then it shall come to pass, that those which ye let remain of them shall be **pricks in your eyes**, and thorns in your sides, and shall vex you in the land wherein ye dwell.”)

Remember, the purpose of the discipline is to get the lukewarm Christians to repent and obey, as a wife should obey her husband. God must “open their eyes” by physically blinding them, hoping that they will perceive their own corrupt love of money, repent and then the “eye salve” can be applied to restore their eye sight. (See vs. 18.)

Almost all of the leaders of the lukewarm churches are “wolves in sheep's clothing”, especially the ones who falsely teach that they have the supernatural gifts of the Spirit. They know they're lying. They love corrupting the church. They are in the **lie** business, not the **truth** business. They know perfectly well that nobody has had any of those supernatural gifts of the Spirit since the death of the Apostles in the first century church, until today. [Mat. 7:15](#) “Beware of false prophets, which come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly they are ravening wolves.” [Titus 1:11](#) “Whose mouths must be stopped....” KJV The “wolves in sheep's clothing” are satanic spies. They secretly take orders from Satan. It is the “wolves in sheep's clothing” that are teaching the sheep that the sheep are immune from being deceived by “wolves in sheep's clothing”. (See article listed below on: Wolves In Sheep's Clothing.)

Occasionally, someone who is truly saved, but doesn't understand what is going on, is deceived and trained for leadership by those satanic spies. Such trainees are not capable of perceiving the incorrect twisted Bible doctrine and customs..... nor the intentions of the satanic spies. They're incapable of recognizing the presence of a “wolf in sheep's clothing” especially when the “rich” spies, go to poor countries, and offer gifts or provide those poor church leaders with support money. Despite the fact that some of those pastor trainees and leaders are truly saved, they are spiritually “blind”. They are lukewarm in the faith. They have been corrupted and are equally as disqualified from leadership as the satanic spies.

The only hope that the lukewarm Christians have to overcome their corruption is by rejecting their previous customs, teachings and leadership. The corrupt leaders

must be taken out of the way. This is the most important purpose of the “captivity” or “discipline” of the lukewarm church. [Eze. 34:10](#) “Thus saith the Lord God; Behold, I am against the shepherds; and I will require my flock at their hand,.....” Here, God says that He will remove **ALL** of the shepherds (including the ones who are **not** satanic spies) and then replace them with one true man of His choice: “Shepherd David”. [Eze. 34:23](#) “And I will set up one shepherd over them, and he shall feed them, even my servant David; he shall feed them, and he shall be their shepherd.” (Notice: the word “pastor” in English comes from the Latin word for “shepherd” or “herdsman” of real sheep.)

Every Christian who insists on following the previous customs and teachings of their corrupt lukewarm church leaders will consider the true “Shepherd David” or “Pastor David” to be a phony and an enemy of God working for Satan. They may even call him the Anti-Christ, because he will be responsible for disciplining the lukewarm church. They will hate anyone who exposes their lukewarm lack of spirituality.

They want to believe they are spiritually “**rich**”. (...thou sayest, I am **rich**, and increased with goods, and have need of nothing; and knowest not that....) They want to believe that they are gliding down the highway of spiritual success. Some of those lukewarm Christians may even think that the real “Shepherd David” is the Anti-Christ because he will be responsible for punishing Christians for their lukewarmness. (They insist on believing that they are **not** lukewarm. They are persistent in thinking they are spiritually rich.) (See article listed below on: The New World Order was Prophesied in the Bible.) (Notice – “Shepherd David” will punish the lukewarm church, hoping to revive it, but the Anti-Christ will **kill** the **faithful** church, not the lukewarm church, similar to how Hitler tried to kill all the Jews during WW2. The Anti-Christ will have no interest in reviving the lukewarm church. The true “Shepherd David” will not be responsible for any mass murder like Hitler was. [Rev. 12:17](#); [13:7](#); [7:9-17](#))

[Rev. 3:17](#) “Because thou sayest, I am rich, and increased with goods, and have need of nothing; and knowest not that thou art wretched, and miserable, and poor, and blind, and **naked**.” KJV

The word “**naked**” (γυμνος) means that they will be stripped completely naked and ridiculed in public by people whom they hate. (The people they hate the most are the ones who publicly demonstrate that they are corrupt lukewarm Christians. But, especially they will hate the true “Shepherd David” for exposing their lack of spirituality, lukewarmness and for making them feel spiritually naked.) [Eze. 23:28-29](#) “For thus saith the Lord God; Behold, I will deliver thee into the hand of them whom thou hatest, into the hand of them from whom thy mind is alienated: And they shall deal with thee hatefully, and shall take away all thy labour (things obtained by working=wealth), and shall leave thee **naked** and bare: and the **nakedness** of thy whoredoms shall be discovered, both thy lewdness and thy whoredoms.” KJV The words “lewdness” and “whoredoms” are both in reference to idolatry, which is spiritual adultery. In the case of

the lukewarm church, it is the love of money more than the love of God. (Also: [Isa. 20:2-4](#) [Eze. 16:37-39](#) [Isa. 47:2-3](#) [Isa. 3:17](#).) I repeat, the “lewdness” and “whoredoms” are their love of money, more than love of God.

xx It was a common practice, in those days, that when conquerors were returning from a victorious battle, they would bring the remaining captives back **naked** in chains through the streets of their cities in a victory celebration parade. Sometimes, they even built enormous arch monuments to march through. The OT Hebrew word for “**carry away**” into captivity (הלך) is also used for: “strip naked”. ([2Ki. 25:21](#) [2Kings 24:14,15](#) [Est. 2:6](#)) Another custom, back then, was that the conquerors forced the newly conquered slaves to lick the dirt off their feet. ([Isa. 49:23](#)) (Most people wore sandals in those days.) (See article listed below on: The Babylonian and Egyptian Captivity.)

All this is not the honorable kind of suffering in which an eternal reward is promised by God, such as the crown for the church in Smyrna. [Rev. 2:10](#) “**Fear none of those things which thou shalt suffer: behold, the devil shall cast some of you into prison, that ye may be tried; and ye shall have tribulation ten days: be thou faithful unto death, and I will give thee a crown of life.**” Rather, this is the chastisement of the lukewarm church, which is a disgraceful, shameful and just punishment for a disobedient wife just as all disobedient wives ought to be shamefully punished. (See article listed below on: Domestic Discipline.) Nonetheless, in the event that some of the lukewarm Christians recognize their error and inwardly begin to change and begin to obey Jesus Christ, as a wife should obey her husband, they cease to be lukewarm Christians. Then, they will be blessed and honored of God. They will be given time to repent.

Also, notice that in the case of Smyrna, it was the “devil” who was responsible for their suffering. But, with the lukewarm church of Laodicea Jesus Christ speaks in the first person: [Rev.3:19](#) “**As many as I love, I rebuke and “scourge”:** be zealous therefore, and repent.” Thus, indicating that the chastisement or “scourge” will be administered by the representative of Jesus Christ, who is, the “Shepherd David” mentioned above, who will be responsible for publicly stripping them naked ([vs 17](#)), parading them through the streets with dung on their faces and then scourging them and castrating them. ([vs 19](#)) [Mal 2:3](#) “**Behold, I will corrupt your seed, and spread dung upon your faces, even the dung (excrement) of your solemn feasts; and one shall take you away with it.**” Men who give away the leadership to the women ought to be castrated. (Especially men who put women as bosses over other men, or men who permit female church members to be bosses over other men at work.) There shouldn't be another generation with this type of corruption.

[Rev. 3:18](#) “**I counsel thee to buy of me gold tried in the fire, that thou mayest be rich; and white raiment, that thou mayest be clothed, and that the shame of thy**

nakedness do not appear; and anoint thine eyes with eyesalve, that thou mayest see.” KJV

The word “**fire**” (πυρος) also represents the suffering of the cross of Christ, which every faithful Christian must always be ready to carry when the spiritual husband Jesus Christ so commands. Luke 9:23-26 “And he said to them all, If any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross **daily**, and follow me. 24- For whosoever will save his life shall lose it: but whosoever will lose his life for my sake, the same shall save it. 25- For what is a man advantaged, if he gain the whole world, and lose himself, or be cast away? 26- For whosoever shall be ashamed of me and of my words, of him shall the Son of man be ashamed, when he shall come in his own glory, and in his Father's, and of the holy angels.” KJV Rom. 8:16,17 “The Spirit itself beareth witness with our spirit, that we are the children of God: And if children, then heirs; heirs of God, and joint heirs with Christ; if so be that we suffer with him, that we may be also glorified together.” (Also: Mat. 5:10-12 2Tim. 2:12 Act. 14:22 Luke 14:27.)

The “**gold**” will most likely be provided by the moving of the mountains mentioned as a prophesy just before the second coming of Jesus Christ. (See article listed below: The New World Order was Prophesied in the Bible.) When they move the mountains, most likely they will find a large quantity of gold. Luke 3:4,5 “As it is written in the book of the words of Esaias the prophet, saying, The voice of one crying in the wilderness, Prepare ye the way of the Lord, make his paths straight. (Isaiah 40:3,4) 5- Every valley shall be filled, and every mountain and hill shall be brought low; and the crooked shall be made straight, and the rough ways shall be made smooth;” Mat 17:20 “And Jesus said unto them, Because of your unbelief: for verily I say unto you, If ye have faith as a grain of mustard seed, ye shall say unto this mountain, Remove hence to yonder place; and it shall remove; and nothing shall be impossible unto you.”

Suffering can be used to purify a person spiritually the same way that “**fire**” purifies gold. When gold is heated up, it liquefies and all the impurities rise to the top where they can be easily removed. Only after suffering in faithful service to Jesus Christ is a person made truly and eternally rich in the spirit. 1Pet. 4:1,2 “Forasmuch then as Christ hath suffered for us in the flesh, arm yourselves likewise with the same mind: for he that hath suffered in the flesh hath ceased from sin; That he no longer should live the rest of his time in the flesh to the lusts of men, but to the will of God.” KJV

The “**white raiment**” (ιματια λευκα) represents a Christian's true good works done through the power of the Holy Spirit. (2Cor. 5:2-4 Rev. 16:15) It is also like the white clothing worn by a **virgin** bride on her wedding day. Rev. 19:7-8 “Let us be glad and rejoice, and give honour to him: for the marriage of the Lamb is come, and his wife hath made herself ready. 8- And to her was granted that she should be arrayed (dressed) in fine linen, clean and white: for the fine linen is the righteousness of saints.” KJV (Also: Mat. 22:11-13)

The “**eyesalve**” (κολλουριον) is to restore the person's eye sight and spiritual vision. 2Cor. 4:18 “While we look not at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen: for the things which are seen are temporal; but the things which are not seen are eternal.” KJV (Also: 2Ki. 6:17; Luke 24:13-32). Here we see that there will be medication to restore the eye sight of any lukewarm Christian who has truly repented.

Rev. 3:19 “As many as I love, I rebuke and chasten: be zealous therefore, and repent.” KJV

The ultimate test of “**love**” (φιλω) is when someone lays down their life or suffers for someone else, just as Jesus Christ, the spiritual husband, has already done for His bride, the church. John 15:13 “Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends.” KJV (Also: Isa. 53:5) Only this type of man is worthy to be the “head” of his wife and is qualified to discipline her. (See article listed below on: Domestic Discipline.)

The word “**rebuke**” (ελεγχω) does **not** imply a pleasant manner of speaking. There are many people who think that harsh words are out of place in church meetings. When John the Baptizer spoke to the religious leaders in his day, he did **not** use pleasant words. Mat. 3:7 “But when he saw many of the Pharisees and Sadducees come to his baptism, he said unto them, O generation (offspring) of vipers (poisonous snakes), who hath warned you to flee from the wrath to come?” KJV Most of the leaders of the modern churches in America are very similar to those religious leaders at the time of Christ and John the Baptizer. Mat 23:13 “But woe unto you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! for ye shut up the kingdom of heaven against men: for ye neither go in yourselves, neither suffer (permit) ye them that are entering to go in.....”

The word “**chasten**” (παιδευω) in the original NT language (Greek) more specifically means to: “discipline as a child”. It literally uses the Greek word for “child” as a verb, which is not done in English. (“As many as I love, I rebuke and “**child**”: be zealous therefore, and repent.”) In those days, it was understood that it is appropriate that an adult who misbehaves like a child should be disciplined like a child. It was probably most common at that time to discipline children with a “rod” or “scourge”. Pro 13:24 “He that spareth his **rod** hateth his son: but he that loveth him chasteneth him betimes (early).” Pro 22:15 “Foolishness is bound in the heart of a child; but the **rod** of correction shall drive it far from him.” Prov. 23: 13,14 “Withhold not correction from the child: for if thou beatest him with the **rod**, he shall not die. Thou shalt beat him with the **rod**, and shalt deliver his soul from hell.”

Also, the same word for “**chasten**” (παιδευω) was used in Luke 23:16,22 just before they “**scourged**” Jesus. Luke 18:33 “And they shall **scourge** him, and put him to death: and the third day he shall rise again.” The English word “**scourge**” would be a good translation of what Jesus Christ said to his disobedient wife: “As many as I

love, I rebuke and **“scourge”**: be zealous therefore, and repent.” Therefore, it can be said that Jesus Christ, as a husband, is going to strip his wife **naked**, as it says above in verse 17, and then whip her with a **“scourge”** (whip or belt of some sort). The purpose of the whipping is to get the wife to repent, change her disobedient conduct and return to fellowship with her one and only true husband. Since the word “child” is used, a translation using “spank” might also be acceptable: **“As many as I love, I rebuke and **“spank”**: be zealous therefore, and repent.”** (See article listed below on: Domestic Discipline.)

Notice that the idea that it is wrong to use corporal punishment on delinquent **adults** is characteristic only of the present century. For thousands of years it was considered normal to punish delinquent **adult men** physically and publicly. The Word of God certainly agrees with this custom. (Deu. 25:2,3 Pro. 26:3 Pro. 20:30 Lev. 19:20 Psa. 89:32 Pro. 19:29 Neh. 13:25). Deu 25:2,3 **“And it shall be, if the wicked man be worthy to be beaten, that the judge shall cause him to lie down, and to be beaten before his face, according to his fault, by a certain number. Forty stripes he may give him, and not exceed:”** Jesus Christ himself made a **“scourge of small cords”**. John 2:15 **“And when he (Jesus) had made a scourge of small cords, he drove them all out of the temple, and the sheep, and the oxen; and poured out the changers' money, and overthrew the tables;”** (Also: Luke 23:16; Mat. 20:19; John 19:1)

At that time the religious service included sacrificing an animal as a substitution payment for a person's sins. But, the animal had to be inspected and approved by the religious leader. No defective animals were permitted. Exo 12:5 **“Your lamb shall be without blemish,.....”** So, those religious leaders started to sell animals for high prices and require everyone to buy one of their animals..... until Jesus put an end to it. John 2:16 **“And said unto them that sold doves, Take these things hence (from here, away); make not my Father's house an house of merchandise.”** KJV

It's amazing how so many people in modern churches read things like these passages regularly and think everything Jesus did was good and normal. But, if someone in our modern culture were to actually use a **“scourge of small cords”** on obstinate church members who insist on continuing in corruption, or for a husband to use a **“scourge of small cords”** on a disobedient wife at home, most modern Christians would automatically assume that the man with the whip is “abnormal” or “mentally ill” or “anger prone” and unfit to be a church leader. (Tit. 1:7) They might even call the police and say that the man with the whip belongs in a mental institution. But at the same time, they read passages like these from the Bible and think that everything Jesus did was OK. This kind of “two sided” perception (double standard) is a very good example of spiritual blindness, or possibly, REAL mental illness. When **they** read the Bible, it's story time..... you know, just a fantasy bedtime story for children before you tuck them in at night..... nothing more.

In the case of disciplining wives, God himself established from the beginning that physical pain should be a normal and regular part of a woman's marital life. [Gen. 3:16](#) “Unto the woman he said, I will greatly multiply thy sorrow (בצער= pain) and thy conception; in sorrow (בצער= pain) thou shalt bring forth children; and thy **desire** shall be to thy husband, and he shall **rule over** thee.” KJV Before the last 100 years, the phrase “**rule over**” had **always** indicated not only the authority to give orders, but also the authority to administer discipline for disobedience. It is not possible to “**rule over**” anyone without the ability to apply discipline for disobedience.

It is foolish to think that someone giving orders who has no ability to apply discipline should be obeyed. The supposed subordinate would just tell him to get lost. The word “**desire**” implies that women crave having their husbands “**rule over**” them, provided that it is done in a loving, mature and respectful way. Most women like a man who is a strong and good leader. (See article listed below on: Domestic Discipline.) It should also be noted here that marital intercourse itself, when it is done in a normal natural manner, is usually painful for the wife, but not for the husband. This is how intercourse ought to be practiced. Notice how, in [Gen 3:16](#) above, the word “pain” is mentioned twice, once for “conception” and the other for giving birth.

In the Song of Solomon, which is the only book in the Bible to address the physical and sensual side of marriage, many figures of speech and metaphoric symbolisms are used in order to poetically talk about God's recipe for a maximum marital physical experience. It does not talk directly about things that should be private and intimate.

In one place, instead of the wife stating directly that her husband is disciplining her, metaphorically she talks about the “watchmen” or “keepers of the walls”. [Song 5:7](#) “The watchmen that went about the city found me, they smote (beat) me, they wounded (bruised) me; the keepers of the walls took away my veil from me.” KJV (The definition of the original Hebrew word for “veil” has been lost, that is, the precise meaning has been lost over the years. The root meaning implies something spread like a wide wrapper or large cape. Other English translations say: “mantle” or “cloak”. The Septuagint translates it: “θήριστρον” – a light summer garment. The Septuagint was the Greek translation of the original Hebrew Old Testament in common use at the time of Christ. The garment could even be considered a “nuptial robe” or “wedding dress”, which obviously would need to be removed by the husband when they were alone. It is not realistic that unknown strangers stripped her naked and beat her publicly.)

The cities in those days had walls around them for protection, which symbolized the husband's protection for his wife, especially protection against spiritual error. (Like “women's liberation”.) (See article listed below on: The Consequences of “Women's Liberation”.) Obviously, it is implied that the wife had gone to the limit of acceptable conduct and needed to be disciplined (and protected from error). The husband is represented by the “keepers of the walls”. He “smote” (beat) her and “wounded” (bruised) her with physical discipline after he had removed her garment. It sounds like

her husband stripped her “**naked**” (as mentioned above in [Rev. 3:17](#)) and then beat her bare behind enough to leave bruises.

Notice that her reaction to the punishment was to get very emotional and “love sick” for her husband. This more than likely indicates that the discipline was at her request. [Song 5:8](#) “I charge you, O daughters of Jerusalem, if ye find my beloved, that ye tell him, that I am sick of love. (love sick)” KJV God created women to be the happiest and feel the most secure, loved, maritally stable and protected under the authority and discipline of a loving, virtuous and mature (preferably older) husband. When a husband applies discipline correctly, it can seem very romantic to both him and his wife. (See articles listed below on: “Domestic Discipline” **and** “The Virtues of the Spirit”.)

[Rev. 3:20](#) “Behold, I stand at the door, and knock: if any man hear my voice, and open the door, I will come in to him, and will sup with him, and he with me.” KJV

It is commonly believed that this verse is directed to nonbelievers. However, in its context, you can clearly see that it is speaking to the lukewarm Christians who are already saved and yet have lost their fellowship with the spiritual husband. Jesus Christ is standing outside, knocking and hoping to be let in. They must recognize their lukewarmness and repent. Only then can they be filled with the Holy Spirit and return to close fellowship with the spiritual husband Jesus Christ.

[Rev. 3:21](#) “To him that overcometh will I grant to sit with me in my throne, even as I also overcame, and am set down with my Father in his throne.” KJV

Only Christians who obey Christ faithfully here in this life will receive an inheritance, crown (be kings) and participate in the leadership of the kingdom of God, in the next life. Most of the people who are saved will be “subjects” in the kingdom of God, whom the kings will rule over. ([Rev. 2:26-27](#) [Rev. 22:2](#)) They need to be told what to do. They are not capable of doing God's will on their own. They don't even know what God's will is, much less are they able and willing to do it. They're usually wearing spiritual ear plugs so they don't have to even hear what God's will is. They will not be “part” of the kingdom; they will be “subject” to the kingdom. The half-faithful lukewarm Christians, who are truly saved, will also be denied participation in the marriage supper of the Lamb and denied entrance into the new city of Jerusalem, where only the kings will enter. ([Rev. 21:27](#)) ([Mat. 22:11-13](#)) (See article listed below on: Salvation.)

The word “**overcometh**” clearly indicates that the lukewarm Christians have the opportunity to “**overcome**” their mediocre half-faithful lukewarmness,.... and no longer be lukewarm. Then, they will be blessed of God.

Rev. 3:22 “He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches.” KJV

The “**ear**” (ους) is obviously the spiritual capacity to hear and obey the instructions of God, which is the opposite of spiritual blindness. 1Cor. 2:14 “But the natural man receiveth not the things of the Spirit of God: for they are foolishness unto him: neither can he know *them*, because they are spiritually discerned.” KJV Eph. 1:17 “That the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give unto you the spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of him:” KJV

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