

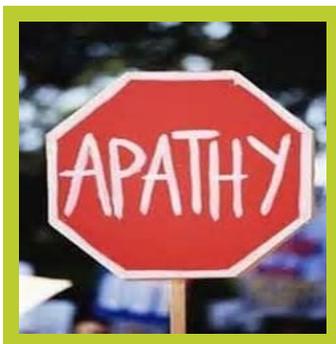
Eliminating Apathy

“What is apathy?” a teacher asked, “I don’t know, and I don’t care!” her students responded.. Unfortunately this is the attitude that prevails in our society when it comes to many major issues in the world about us. Many times, we allow this mentality to creep into the church.

Do we care that many children are leaving the faith? Do we care that many churches today are endorsing things that God never would? Do we care that many of our members don’t know the “basics” about the Bible? Defined: Lack of interest, emotion or devotion, or indifference

Biblical teaching on apathy.

- Obadiah 11
- Revelation 3:16- So, because you are lukewarm, and neither hot nor cold, I will spit you out of my mouth
- Matthew 12:30- whoever is not with me is against me, and whoever does not gather with me scatters.
- Luke 9:23- And he said to all, “If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross daily and follow me.
- Luke 9:62- Jesus said to him, “No one who puts his hand to the plow and looks back is fit for the kingdom of God.”



Examples of apathy toward God

- Someone who sees that God’s Word commands something from them, but fails to act upon it.
- Rich young ruler (Matthew 19) had a “lukewarm faith” he had faith, until it required him to change what truly needed to be changed.
- Apathy can be seen when a Christian says that God is most important in their life, but continually place other things in a higher place.
- Apathy is seen when Christians no longer care to learn the scriptures because they “know enough.”
- Christian’s who hope they will remain faithful instead of determining that they will.

Families of Faith

Let's start a fire!

It is not sufficient to merely point out problems that exist within our lives, and our churches. We must move on from finger pointing, and begin seeking solutions to the problems. If we acknowledge that apathy is a problem we struggle with, what are some things we can do to reverse our behavior?

- A fire is started when we allow the Word to penetrate our hearts.
- A fire is started when we spend time with like-minded people.
- A fire is started when we put our hope in heaven
- A fire is started when we begin to truly work for the Lord. Nothing can start a fire in our hearts quite like seeing God working through our lives.
- A fire is maintained when we do not allow our flame to be put out.
 - Negativity can put out our flame
 - False doctrine can put out our flame
 - Placing faith in men rather than God can put out our flame



Discussion!

1. What are some other examples you can think of relating to apathy?
2. Why is it so easy to become an apathetic Christian?
3. Do you think apathy is a result of lack of faith?
4. What are some other ways we can combat apathy?
5. Can you think of any examples where Christ was apathetic toward the Father?

“This world is full of deadly things, among the deadliest lies spiritual apathy”- unknown