

2nd/3rd October 2013

Home Group Study Notes

Crazy Love* (Chapter 4)

Lukewarm?



It is not scientific doubt, not atheism, not pantheism, not agnosticism, that in our day and in this land is likely to quench the light of the gospel.

It is a proud, sensuous, selfish, luxurious, church going, hollow-hearted prosperity.

The thought of sitting down and examining ourselves is terrifying. If we are honest, we know there is sin our lives. We know there are areas of our lives that we don't want to submit to God. Pauls tells us in 2 Cor. 13:5 "Examine yourselves, to see whether you are in the faith. Test yourselves".

This study is not an easy one and is designed to help us examine our lives, explore what sort of behaviours make us lukewarm and how we can change our lives to love God over all else.

Look around you and in the mirror – what do we see?

1. Describe the attributes and behaviours of someone who is passionate and someone who is lukewarm. Can you think of any examples?

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2. Would you describe yourself as totally in love with Jesus Christ? Or do the words *half-hearted*, *lukewarm*, and *partially committed* fit better? What evidence is there to support your answer?

Read Matthew 13:44-46

God and His Kingdom are worth more than anything we can possibly imagine or cling to. Giving up everything we love should be a joyful prospect in the light of the incomparable greatness of what we find in God Himself. These parables are easy enough to understand, but do they accurately describe your pursuit of God and his Kingdom...

3. Have you experienced a desire for God so intense that it would lead you to let go of everything you wanted for His sake? If so describe that desire and explain why God is worth giving up everything for.

What does the Word of God tell us?

Lukewarm people are moved by stories about people who do radical things for Christ, yet they do not act. They assume such action is for "extreme" Christians, not average ones. Lukewarm people call "radical" what Jesus expected of all His followers...

4. Work through the following list of references, discuss any thoughts that challenge you or realizations of things you need to work on:

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Scripture	Challenges and/or things I need to work on
Isaiah 29: 13	
Isaiah 58: 6-7	
Matthew 5: 43-47	
Matthew 7: 21-23	
Matthew 10: 32-33	
Matthew 21: 28-32	
Matthew 22: 37-38	
Matthew 23: 5-7	
Luke 12: 16-21	
Luke 14: 12-14	
Luke 14: 31-33	
Luke 21: 1-4	
Romans 6: 1-2	

*Studies inspired by "Living Crazy Love", a book by Francis Chan

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1 Timothy 6: 17-18	
James 1:22	
James 4:17	

Watch the Crazy Love DVD/Video Resource for session 4

5. Based on the Scripture you've read in this session, what stands out to you the most? What hits you the hardest? Why?

6. Based on the Scripture and material you've covered in this session, what changes do you need to make to your life?

It's one thing to feel conviction about not living up to God's standard. But it's quite another to desire God so intensely that you take whatever steps are necessary to get back to pursuing Him with every ounce of your being. It's very important that our pursuit of God is not motivated by a desire to be "good enough", but by love for God and a desire to please Him with our lives.

7. What barriers can you identify in your life that keep you from loving God as you ought. How can we overcome these barriers to cultivate a stronger love for God?

The next Home Group meeting is on 16/17th October - Chapters 5 & 6