

I Believe in God, But I Don't Want To Go Overboard — Week 2

- Describe someone you know who is truly passionate about something in their life. How has that passion shaped the way they live their life?

The Lord says: "These people come near to me with their mouth and honor me with their lips, but their hearts are far from me.

Isaiah 29:13 (NIV)

- Do you feel you are more passionate about Christ this year than last year? Why or why not?

To the angel of the church in Laodicea write: These are the words of the Amen, the faithful and true witness, the ruler of God's creation. I know your deeds, that you are neither cold nor hot. I wish you were either one or the other! So, because you are lukewarm- neither hot nor cold- I am about to spit you out of my mouth.

Revelation 3:14-16 (NIV)

10 characteristics of a lukewarm Christian:

1. **Crave acceptance from people more than acceptance from God.**
 2. **Rarely discuss their relationship with Christ with others**
 3. **Do whatever it takes to alleviate their guilt**
- Why are we sometimes more passionate about our relationships with other people than we are about our relationship with God?

4. **Think more about life on earth than eternity in heaven**
 5. **Gauge their morality by comparing themselves to others**
 6. **Want to avoid the penalty of sin without changing their lives**
7. **Only turn to God when they are in a bind**
 8. **Give whenever it doesn't hinder their standard of living**
 9. **Are not much different from the rest of the world**
 10. **Want the benefits of what Christ did without conforming to who He is**

- In looking at this list of characteristics, are there any you can identify with? Why or why not?

You say, 'I am rich; I have acquired wealth and do not need a thing.' But you do not realize that you are wretched, pitiful, poor, blind and naked... Here I am! I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears my voice and opens the door, I will come in and eat with him, and he with me.

Revelation 3:17, 20 (NIV)

- What are some specific things you can start doing today that will help deepen your passion for Christ?

Final thought: With your group and during your personal prayer time this week pray God will instill a deeper fire and passion for Him in your life.

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For Further Study

To use this resource, simply select one or two questions from each category below you think will help your group discussion. Alternatively, you can use these questions and Scriptures in your own personal devotions during the week.

Open

How do people typically react when they meet a celebrity or famous athlete? Why do you think these are typical reactions?

Explore

Read John 12:12-19.

This passage details Jesus' triumphant entry into Jerusalem where a multitude of passionate people came to greet Him.

- What had the crowd heard about Jesus? (12:12)
- How did the crowd greet Jesus when He arrived in Jerusalem? (12:13)
- What title did the crowd give to Jesus? (12:13)
- What prophetic event took place in this account? (12:14-15)
- What had been written about this event? (12:15)
- When did Jesus' disciples realize the significance of these events? (12:16)

- What did the crowd do when Jesus raised Lazarus? (12:17)
- Why did many of the people go out to meet Jesus? (12:18)
- How did the Pharisees react to this event? (12:19)

Reflect

- What did you hear about Jesus that led you to seek Him?
- Why do you think Jesus should be the ruler in our lives?
- When is it difficult for you to allow Jesus to take His rightful place as King in your life?
- In what ways can we honor and worship Jesus as King?
- What are some practical ways we can earn the opportunity to discuss our relationship with Christ with others?

Apply

- How does your passion about Christ compare with the passion the crowds exhibited in this passage?
- What specific areas of your life can your surrender to Christ that will result in a stronger passion for Him?