

THE PROFILE OF THE LUKEWARM

Modified from 'Crazy Love' by Francis Chan

- 1: LUKEWARM PEOPLE** attend church fairly regularly. It is what is expected of them, what they believe 'good Christians' do, so they go. (Isaiah 29:13)
- 2: LUKEWARM PEOPLE** give money to charity and to the church... as long as it doesn't impinge on their standard of living. If they have a little extra and it is easy and safe to give, they do so. After all, God loves a cheerful giver, right? (1 Chron 21:24, Luke 21:1-4)
- 3: LUKEWARM PEOPLE** tend to choose what is popular over what is right when they are in conflict. They desire to fit both at church and outside of church; they care more about what people think of their actions (like church attendance and giving) than what God thinks of their hearts and lives. (Luke 6:26, Rev 3:1, Matt 23:5-7)
- 4: LUKEWARM PEOPLE** don't really want to be saved from their sin; they want only to be saved from the penalty of their sin. They don't genuinely hate sin and aren't truly sorry for it; they're merely sorry because God is going to punish them. Lukewarm people don't really believe that this new life Jesus offers is better than the old sinful one. (John 10:10, Rom 6:1-2)
- 5: 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. (James 1:22, James 4:17, Matt 21:28-31)
- 6: LUKEWARM PEOPLE** rarely share their faith with their neighbors, co-workers or friends. They do not want to be rejected. They fear others more than Jesus. They do not want to make people uncomfortable by talking about private issues like religion. (Matt 10:32-33)
- 7: LUKEWARM PEOPLE** gauge their morality or 'goodness' by comparing themselves to the secular world. They feel satisfied that while they aren't as hard-core for Jesus as so-and-so, they are nowhere as horrible as the guy down the street. (Luke 18:11-12)
- 8: LUKEWARM PEOPLE** say they love Jesus, and He is, indeed, part of their lives. But only a part. They give Him a section of their time, their money and their thoughts, but He isn't allowed to control their lives. (Luke 9:57-62)
- 9: LUKEWARM PEOPLE** love God, but they do not love Him with all their heart, soul and strength. They would be quick to assure you that they try to love God that much, but that sort of devotion isn't really possible for the average person; it's only for pastors, missionaries and radicals. (Matt 22:37-38)
- 10: LUKEWARM PEOPLE** love others but do not seek to love others as much as they love themselves. Their love of others is typically focused on those who love them in return, like family, friends, and other people they know and connect with. There is little love left over for those who cannot love them back, much less for those who intentionally slight them, whose kids are better athletes than theirs, or with whom conversations are awkward or uncomfortable. Their love is highly conditional and very selective, and generally comes with strings attached. (Matt 5:43-47, Luke 14:13-14)
- 11: LUKEWARM PEOPLE** will serve God and others, but there are limits to how far they will go, or how much time, money and energy they are willing to give. (Luke 18:21-25)
- 12: LUKEWARM PEOPLE** think about life on earth much more often than eternity in heaven. Daily life is mostly focussed on today's to-do list, this week's schedule and next month's vacation. Rarely, if ever, do they consider the life to come. Regarding this, C. S. Lewis wrote, *'If you read history you will find that the Christians who did most for the present world were precisely those who thought most of the next. It is since Christians have largely ceased to think of the other world that they have become so ineffective in this.'* (Phil 3:18-20, Col 3:2)

- 13: LUKEWARM PEOPLE** are thankful for their luxuries and comforts, and rarely consider trying to give as much as possible to the poor. They are quick to point out, 'Jesus never said money is the root of all evil, only the love of money is.' Untold numbers of lukewarm people feel 'called' to minister to the rich; very few feel 'called' to minister to the poor. (Matt 25: 34, 40, Isaiah 58:6-7)
- 14: LUKEWARM PEOPLE** do whatever is necessary to keep themselves from feeling too guilty. They want to do the base minimum, to be 'good enough' without it requiring too much of them. They ask, '*How far can I go before it's considered a sin?*' instead of '*How can I keep myself pure as a temple of the Holy Spirit?*' They ask,....' (1 Chron 29:14, Matt 13:44-46)
- 15: LUKEWARM PEOPLE** are continually concerned with playing it safe; they are slaves to the god of control. This focus on safe living keeps them from sacrificing and taking risks for God. (1 Tim 6:17-18, Matt 10:28)
- 16: LUKEWARM PEOPLE** do not live by faith; their lives are structured so they never have to. They don't have to trust God if something unexpected happens - they have their saving account. They don't need God to help them - they have their retirement plan in place. They don't genuinely seek out what life God would have them live - they have life figured and mapped out. They don't depend on God on a daily basis - their refrigerators are full and, for the most part, they are in good health. The truth is, their lives wouldn't look much different if they suddenly stopped believing in God. (Luke 12:16-21, Amos 6:1)
- 17: LUKEWARM PEOPLE** probably pray before meals and at bedtime. But that is where communion with God stops. (1 Thes 5:17)
- 18: LUKEWARM PEOPLE** probably drink and swear less than average, but besides that, they really aren't very different from your typical unbeliever. They equate their partially sanitised lives with holiness, but that couldn't be more wrong. (Matt 23:25-28, Matt 7:21)