

# Could You Be Denying Jesus Christ?

**Luke 18:16-17** [New King James] *“But Jesus called them to Him and said, ‘Let the little children come to Me, and do not forbid them; for of such is the kingdom of God. Assuredly, I say to you, whoever does not receive the kingdom of God as a little child will by no means enter it.’”*

A little child will humbly accept what they are told by their parents and others who have authority over them.

**Luke 18:18-19** [New King James] *“Now a certain ruler asked Him, saying, ‘Good Teacher, what shall I do to inherit eternal life?’ So Jesus said to him, ‘Why do you call Me good? No one is good but One, that is, God.’”*

**Jesus Christ made this response to make sure this ruler knew who he was speaking to.**

**Luke 18:20-23** [New King James] *“‘You know the commandments: “Do not commit adultery,” “Do not murder,” “Do not steal,” “Do not bear false witness,” “Honour your father and your mother.”’ And he said, ‘All these things I have kept from my youth.’ So when Jesus heard these things, He said to him, ‘You still lack one thing. Sell all that you have and distribute to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; and come, follow Me.’ But when he heard this, he became very sorrowful, for he was very rich.”*

This was **not** the answer this man was expecting, and his profession of righteousness and humility slipped.

The ruler’s response showed his lack of “childlikeness” **not** accepting the words of Jesus Christ.

He professed a desire to live righteously but his “fruits” did **not** bear out what he professed.

**James 1:8** [New King James] *“he is a double-minded man, unstable in all his ways.”*

This ruler was “double-minded,” he wanted the Kingdom of God, but he did **not** wish to relinquish his position in society and his possessions.

This ruler had not heard or had forgotten the previous words of Jesus Christ.

**Luke 14:25-27** [New King James] *“Now great multitudes went with Him. And He turned and said to them, ‘If anyone comes to Me and does not hate his father and mother, wife and children, brothers and sisters, yes, and his own life also, he cannot be My disciple. And whoever does not bear his cross and come after Me cannot be My disciple.’”*

This ruler was **not** willing to forsake all in order to be Jesus Christ’s disciple.

**Revelation 3:14-16** [New King James] *“And to the angel of the church of the Laodiceans write, ‘These things says the Amen, the Faithful and True Witness, the Beginning of the creation of God: know your works, that you are neither cold nor hot. I could wish you were cold or hot. So then, because you are lukewarm, and neither cold nor hot, I will vomit you out of My mouth.’”*

**Jesus is telling any who have this “lukewarm” attitude towards Him, He would reject.**

If we as Christians are “hot” we will be completely committed to being a disciple of Jesus Christ, surrendering our total life to Him to use how He wishes.

We will do this out of gratitude to Him for what He has done for all humanity, which includes us, through His life, death and resurrection.

**Romans 12:1-2** [NIV] *“Therefore, I urge you, brothers, in view of God’s mercy, to offer your bodies as living sacrifices, holy and pleasing to God, this is your spiritual act of worship. Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God’s will is, his good, pleasing and perfect will.”*

After offering our life to Jesus Christ as a “*living sacrifice*” we will “*childlike*” submit to His re-education by the indwelling of the Holy Spirit.

This was **not** the attitude of the young ruler or those in the Laodicean Church.

Both the young ruler and the Laodicean Church had an attitude of self-justification, [**Luke 18:21; Revelation 3:17**], which is **not** “*childlike*” or a “*living sacrifice*”!

If we are “*lukewarm*” we are lacking enthusiasm.

**The word “*enthusiasm*” comes from two root words “*en*” and “*theos*” which literally means “*God in us*,” that is the active presence of the Holy Spirit in our lives.**

**John 14:15-18** [New King James] *“If you love Me, keep My commandments. And I will pray the Father, and He will give you another Helper, that He may abide with you forever, the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees Him nor knows Him; but you know Him, for He dwells with you and will be in you. I will not leave you orphans; I will come to you.”*

When we keep the commands of Jesus Christ He has promised to ask the Father to send the Holy Spirit to dwell in us, which is God living in us, giving us red hot enthusiasm.

**John 15:4-5** [New King James] *“Abide in Me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in Me. I am the vine, you are the branches. He who abides in Me, and I in him, bears much fruit; **for without Me you can do nothing.**”*

Unless this happens we will **not** bear any “*fruits*” of the Holy Spirit, [**Galatians 5:22-23**] which are the very characteristics of the Creator God.

**The lukewarm, professing Christian will feel comfortable justifying their less-than-total commitment.**

**Job 9:20** [New King James] *“Though I were righteous, my own mouth would condemn me; though I were blameless, it would prove me perverse.”*

The wise patriarch Job, who was a well-liked servant of the Creator God, [**Job 1:8**] knew that any self-justification condemns us by our own words.

**How serious is this lukewarm attitude?**

Lukewarmness sickens the very stomach of our Saviour Jesus Christ, [**Revelation 3:16**].

**It takes faith to live God’s way of life. Only through faith in what Jesus Christ has done for us and faith in all of God’s promises can we receive true acceptable righteousness, imputed righteousness.**

**Romans 4:13, 16, 18-24** [New King James] *“For the promise that he would be the heir of the world was not to Abraham or to his seed through the law, but through the righteousness of faith.” ... “Therefore it is of faith that it might be according to grace, so that the promise might be sure to all the seed, not only to those who are of the law, but also to those who are of the faith of Abraham, who is the father of us all” ... “who, contrary to hope, in hope believed, so that he became the father of many nations, according to what was spoken, ‘So shall your descendants be.’ And not being weak in faith, he did not consider his own body, already dead (since he was about a hundred years old), and the deadness of Sarah’s womb. He did not waver at the promise of God through unbelief, but was*

*strengthened in faith, giving glory to God, and being fully convinced that what He had promised He was also able to perform. And therefore 'it was accounted to him for righteousness.' Now it was not written for his sake alone that it was imputed to him, but also for us. It shall be imputed to us who believe in Him who raised up Jesus our Lord from the dead,"*

Because our own righteousness or self-righteousness is totally unacceptable to the Creator God.

**Isaiah 64:6** [New King James] *"But we are all like an unclean thing, and all our righteousnesses are like filthy rags; we all fade as a leaf, and our iniquities, like the wind, have taken us away."*

**Our efforts of righteousness are seen as filthy rags that everyone including the Creator God would reject, [Hebrew is referring to menstrual cloths that are soiled.]**

**Hebrews 10:36-38** [New King James] *"For you have need of endurance, so that after you have done the will of God, you may receive the promise: 'For yet a little while, and He who is coming will come and will not tarry. Now the just shall live by faith; but if anyone draws back, My soul has no pleasure in him.'"*

**Only a continual faith in the promises of the Creator God is acceptable to Him.**

**Hebrews 10:26-27** [New King James] *"For if we sin wilfully after we have received the knowledge of the truth, there no longer remains a sacrifice for sins, but a certain fearful expectation of judgment, and fiery indignation which will devour the adversaries."*

Wilfully rejecting the Words of God, the Christian Bible, and all the promises of the Creator God recorded in it, will cause us to end up in the lake of fire, [**Revelation 21:8**], where all humans who reject the rule of the Creator God in their lives will end up.

**How are we lukewarm?**

**2 Peter 2:10** [New King James] *"and especially those who walk according to the flesh in the lust of uncleanness and despise authority. They are presumptuous, self-willed. They are not afraid to speak evil of dignitaries,"*

Peter, under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit, describes those who are lukewarm.

They are presumptuous and despise any God-given authority, they argue, they justify themselves and talk back to the authority of the Almighty God.

Professing to be Christians their conduct totally violates the nature of the Jesus Christ they profess to follow.

**1 John 2:3-6** [New King James] *"Now by this we know that we know Him, if we keep His commandments. He who says, 'I know Him,' and does not keep His commandments, is a liar, and the truth is not in him. But whoever keeps His word, truly the love of God is perfected in him. By this we know that we are in Him. He who says he abides in Him ought himself also to walk just as He walked."*

If we walk in the way that Jesus Christ wants us to choose we will **not** be "lukewarm" but "hot."

**We will know and know that we know the truth of the Word of God, the Christian Bible.**

We will ingest the life-giving words of instruction that have proved the faithfulness of our Creator God revealed in His Word, the Christian Bible.

We will know intimately the basic doctrines as listed in **Hebrews 6:1-2**, and will abide by them with every fibre of our being.

Anything less than total commitment produces a double-minded person and no-one can faithfully serve two masters, [Matthew 6:24].

**Judgement is on all Christians now.**

**1 Peter 4:17** [New King James] *“For the time has come for judgment to begin at the house of God; and if it begins with us first, what will be the end of those who do not obey the gospel of God?”*

God is **not** yet dealing with the masses of humanity around the world, **not** yet judging them according to their works, only those He has called at this time, [John 6:44].

The vast majority of humans will have their chance of salvation after the Second Coming of Jesus Christ, [Revelation 20:1-6] and then all who have died without knowing Jesus Christ will be brought back to physical life by a resurrection to be judged then, [Revelation 20:11-13].

**2 Peter 3:9** [New King James] *“The Lord is not slack concerning His promise, as some count slackness, but is longsuffering toward us, not willing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance.”*

**The Creator God wants eventually that all humans who have ever lived to have the chance to know Him through knowing Jesus Christ as their Saviour.**

**Philippians 1:6** [New King James] *“being confident of this very thing, that He who has begun a good work in you will complete it until the day of Jesus Christ;”*

All who have been called in this life, since the First Coming of Jesus Christ, are being fashioned by the discipline of God’s Word, the Christian Bible, and the work of the Holy Spirit, to prepare us for a place in the Kingdom of God, the created family of God.

**Hebrews 12:5-8** [New King James] *“And you have forgotten the exhortation which speaks to you as to sons: ‘My son, do not despise the chastening of the LORD, nor be discouraged when you are rebuked by Him; for whom the LORD loves He chastens, and scourges every son whom He receives.’ If you endure chastening, God deals with you as with sons; for what son is there whom a father does not chasten? But if you are without chastening, of which all have become partakers, then you are illegitimate and not sons.”*

This chastening by God may **not** at times be a joyful experience, [verse 11] but essential moulding of our lives by the Creator God, [Isaiah 64:8].

**Romans 9:20-21** [New King James] *“But indeed, O man, who are you to reply against God? Will the thing formed say to him who formed it, ‘Why have you made me like this?’ Does not the potter have power over the clay, from the same lump to make one vessel for honour and another for dishonour?”*

We are **not** to resist this chastening which is the Creator God moulding us into vessels that He can use in the ever-expanding Kingdom of God, [Isaiah 9:6-7].

Jesus Christ is asking us to choose life.

**John 10:10** [New King James] Jesus the Good Shepherd speaking *“... I have come that they may have life, and that they may have it more abundantly.”*

**Jesus Christ knows that unless we are totally committed to Him, we will be lukewarm and will not attain to the abundant life in the created family of God, the Kingdom of God.**

It is out of His great love for all humanity that Jesus Christ calls us to **not** deny Him but be totally committed to Him as our Saviour and soon-coming King.