

Bridgeway Community Church
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THRESHOLD

The Open Door

John 10:7-9 NIV84

Therefore Jesus said again, "I tell you the truth, I am the gate for the sheep. ⁸ All who ever came before me were thieves and robbers, but the sheep did not listen to them. ⁹ I am the gate; whoever enters through me will be saved. He will come in and go out, and find pasture."

John 10:7 ESV

So Jesus again said to them, "Truly, truly, I say to you, I am the door of the sheep."

John 14:6 NIV84

Jesus answered, "I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me."

"Jesus opens the door that we must walk through in order for us to have a relationship with God the Father by placing our faith in him."

"But in return, Jesus now wants to walk through a door into our lives of fellowship with him."

"So we walk through a door by faith into a relationship with him, but now Jesus walks through a door of fellowship to have a relationship with us. It's pretty amazing, actually!"

"No other religion has this relational component where the God of the universe wants to enter into personal fellowship with you."

Revelation 3:20 NIV84

[Jesus speaking] "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."

We see here that Jesus is a gentleman; he doesn't over ride our human will.

Four Observations on Revelation 3:20:

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| 1. "Here I am" | Jesus is present |
| 2. "I stand at the door and knock" | Jesus is patient |
| 3. "I will come in" | Jesus is prepared |
| 4. "Eat with you and he with me" | Jesus is personal |

"This kind of fellowship is only available for the believer whose willing to open the door and invite Jesus Christ in."

"Surprising to many, this text is not about evangelism...it's not an invitation to non-believers...the context shows us that Jesus is talking to Christians."

In passage Jesus is addressing the church in Laodicea that is now in modern-day Turkey. This is the 7th church Jesus addresses in these first 3 chapters of Revelation.

"I do wonder if we are the church of Laodicea in the way we're living today...in each one of these churches Jesus does mention an area of rebuke, but he also mentions an areas of reward...but when we get to this 7th church here, it's interesting what their problem was."

The problem at Laodicea: Lukewarmness

"What Jesus is saying this exact thing to the Christians in Laodicea: Yuck!"

Question: Do you make Jesus say "Yuck?" Are you yucky Christians?

Revelation 3:15-16 NIV84

I know your deeds, that you are neither cold nor hot. I wish you were either one or the other! ¹⁶ So, because you are lukewarm—neither hot nor cold—I am about to spit you out of my mouth.

"You've lost your fire! You've lost your passion! You've lost your connection!"

Revelation 2:4 NIV84

[Jesus speaking to the church at Ephesus] Yet I hold this against you: You have forsaken your first love.

"You dabble around the church. You dabble around worship music. You dabble around prayer. But you refuse to dive in. All the way in. You wanna tease me, but you don't want to please me."

"Your noncommittal form of religiosity is nauseating to my stomach. Yuck! Your teasing makes me sick."

Revelation 3:20 NIV84

[Jesus speaking] "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."

"He [Jesus] is standing at the door of lukewarm Christians...If you're a lukewarm Christian, today, Jesus is standing on your doorstep right now and he's knocking..."

"The only thing that would bring you back into fellowship is if you would say, 'Jesus, I hear you knocking and I've been over here doing my thing. I'm a bit ashamed of what I've done and where I am. I don't have the passion I used to. I don't have the fire I used to. I know you're on the other side of the door...I walked away, I walked out or got distracted. I hear you today and all I gotta do is open the door.' "

"One of the things we have to do is identify if we're lukewarm...you're hot or you're not."

Revelation 3:16 NIV84

So, because you are lukewarm—neither hot nor cold—I am about to spit you out of my mouth.

Notice that Jesus is talking about what he wants to do but he hasn't done it yet! Jesus stands nauseous at the door of your lukewarm heart and he knocks.

Question: Will you open the door and let him in?

The reality is sometimes we hear him but we don't open the door because we have some barriers that have caused us to be lukewarm in the first place.

Revelation 3:17-19 NIV84

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. ¹⁸ I counsel you to buy from me gold refined in the fire, so you can become rich; and white clothes to wear, so you can cover your shameful nakedness; and salve to put on your eyes, so you can see. ¹⁹ Those whom I love I rebuke and discipline. So be earnest, and repent.

3 BARRIERS

1. No Need (3:17)
2. Naked (3:18)
3. No Sight (3:18)

The author of Revelation is the apostle John who also wrote 1, 2 & 3 John.

1 John 2:16 NIV84

For everything in the world—the cravings of sinful man, the lust of his eyes and the boasting of what he has and does—comes not from the Father but from the world.

The Lust of the Flesh
 The Lust of the Eyes
 The Pride of Life

We see that this is the original strategy of the serpent in the garden of Eden.

Genesis 3:4-7 NIV84

You will not surely die," the serpent said to the woman. ⁵ "For God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil." ⁶ When the woman saw that the fruit of the tree was good for food and pleasing to the eye, and also desirable for gaining wisdom, she took some and ate it. She also gave some to her husband, who was with her, and he ate it. ⁷ Then the eyes of both of them were opened, and they realized they were naked; so they sewed fig leaves together and made coverings for themselves.

Genesis 3
 "be like God" 3:5
 "was good for food" 3:6
 "pleasing to the eyes" 3:6

1 John 2
 Pride of Life
 Lust of the Flesh
 Lust of the Eyes

Revelation 3
 No Need (3:17)
 Naked (3:18)
 No Sight (3:18)

From Beginning to end, this has been the plan of the enemy all along to get us away from Christ.

NO NEED

John is trying to say, 'Just because you have money doesn't mean you're not poor spiritually.'

Revelation 3:17 NIV84

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.

Churches can have a lot of money and be spiritually dead. The spirit of God left them along time ago.

"Money doesn't equal maturity."

NAKED

"Nakedness comes from this sense shame and moral corruption that we have because of our fleshly desires."

NO SIGHT

You may wear glasses and still be spiritually blind

"What he is saying to the church of Laodicea that had money: you may have money but you're spiritual poor, you're morally bankrupt, and you're spiritual blind...these are the things that will make you lukewarm."

"The more we have no need, the more we feel like we can handle things ourself. The more we think we can handle things ourself, the less we fall to our knees and say 'God, please heal my wife's body. God do a miracle.' You don't need a miracle. You can do everything on your own."

Question: How can we go from lukewarm to hot again in our relationship with God?

PRACTICAL APPLICATION: 3 Ways to Get Back in Fellowship with God

Revelation 3:19 NIV84

Those whom I love I rebuke and discipline. So be earnest, and repent.

1. Accept Rebuke From God

"God may chastise you for backsliding by allowing you to feel the weight of the consequences of your sin but he's so gracious he often times lifts that from us.

Question: Will you allow yourself to be chastised by God? Will you allow yourself to receive discipline from God?

"By accepting and receiving his rebuke, you're putting your pride aside and you're not resisting what God is doing in your life to make you more like Christ."

2. Authentically Repent Before God

Fake repentance is saying 'I'm sorry' quickly because of remorse and move on with no sense of I'm never going to change.

"True repentance is being willing to turn away from our wicked ways. Earnest repentance is confessing before God our sin and committing not to do it again. Authentic repentance is being willing to put parameters in place to prevent us from easily sinning again."

3. Ask the Redeemer to Come Back into Your Heart

Revelation 3:20 NIV84

[Jesus speaking] "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."

"Open the door! It is an act of worship by saying, 'Jesus, I hear the knocking and I hear your voice...He's not judgmental. He will come in. He will forgive you.' "

Revelation 3:21 NIV84

To him who overcomes, I will give the right to sit with me on my throne, just as I overcame and sat down with my Father on his throne. ²² He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches."

[Jesus speaking] "If you allow me to eat with you in fellowship, I will allow you to sit with me in glory!"