

Apathy Destroys

(Excerpts from Sermon – Apathy)

Apathy is a lack of feeling, emotion, interest, or concern. It is a state of indifference, or the suppression of emotions such as concern, excitement, motivation, and/or passion.

Anyone wonder why we don't see more revival in the church today? I would assert that it is because we are content to live without it.

Apathy is great because you don't have to exert yourself to show you are sincere about it...

Have you noticed recently that there is a proliferation of churches that are totally missing the spirit of Pentecost? Ever been in a church that has felt dull, dry, flat and stale? Is the church in a state of institutional dry rot?

Ever notices that in some churches today the music drags? What happened to the music that was full of life and spoke of a risen savior?

If you plan to come to church and serve God; would you prefer to come to a mausoleum of Apathetic saints or a coliseum of glorious praise to a living God?

Christ came to set us free didn't he?

In Galatians 5:1 we see the Apostle Paul fighting the influence of the Judaizers who are structuring away the freedom of the Gospel and the work of the Cross. The scripture reads:

“Stand fast therefore in the liberty by which Christ has made us free, and do not be entangled again with a yoke of bondage.”

Christianity today is being attacked from so many fronts that we feel overwhelmed to cope with it... One might even say that our freedom

is not being destroyed by terrorists, but by ignorance, apathy and complacency.

Go down the street today and ask someone? “What is God saying today in his churches? “Do you know what will greet you? A response like: “I don’t know and I don’t really care!”

There is a glut of information available to people. People’s personal opinions have become all that matters. There is such a diversity of opinions that people basic just figure that since it seems that no one has the answer, I can just make up my own mind about what I want to believe and that’s all there is to it.

Just because society has an opinion on something does not make it truth. Just because you have an opinion on something does not make it truth. God is Truth! The word of God in Proverbs 23:23 NIV “Buy the truth and do not sell it—wisdom, instruction and insight as well.”

The truth costs us because it is often not what we want to hear, but rather what we need to hear. Everyone seems to have an opinion on the truth today and the church is no different. What I get righteously peeved off about is when those opinions spring forth from a persons skull instead of from proper exegesis of the word of God. When did we as a group of Christians become arrogant enough to start putting words into God’s mouth?

I have heard pastors spouting theology and doctrine based on a book they have read and been completely oblivious to the fact that the book did not line up with the word of God.

We have an example in Acts 17:11 of the Berean’s where the scripture says:

“Now the Berean Jews were of more noble character than those in Thessalonica, for they received the message with great eagerness and examined the Scriptures every day to see if what Paul said was true”

When did we become so apathetic that we hand over our salvation, our understanding and our personal relationship with God to another?

Pastors are feeders and you can trust what I say as you can with many others, but I urge you to seek out what the scriptures say for yourself. Investigate why I have presented the scriptures as I have. I encourage you to seek for yourself. Do you know why I publish all of my sermons on the web? You got it! For this reason... every scripture is there... so test these things that your are given and see that they are true. Make them your own by writing them on the tablets of your heart.

Why doesn't this happen?

Are we too busy?
Do we have higher priorities than God?
Do we care?

People... We have been numbed into a sense of complacency and apathy

So why should we worry about Apathy?

Here are some examples that some of you may have heard before but still are so true today:

Niagara

A gentleman relates how, in his boyhood days, he walked nearly seven hundred miles to see Niagara Falls. When he was about seven miles from the spot he thought he had heard what might be the thunder of the great cataract, and inquired of a man who was working on the roof if it were so. The man replied that it might be, but he could not say since he had never been there. (Al Bryant)

Apathy will cause us to miss amazing opportunities that may be right in front of us...

Tae Kwon Do

When I was a martial arts instructor. I wanted to make my classes available to everyone around me. I wanted to simply help people. I rented a room from the chamber of Commerce and for \$10 a month you could take Tae Kwon Do classes...

People showed up on an inconsistent basis. They did not have their uniforms or if they did they were not laundered. People came late to class. When given homework techniques to practice, it was seldom done. In short, it cost them little and they valued it little. People became apathetic to the class.

I went to the bank, got a facility and put in new equipment. I ordered a supply of uniforms and instituted a policy that they must be worn and clean. I charged \$80-\$100 per month. My schools grew to over 300 students in 3 years.

Why because it started to cost them something personally and so they valued the classes. The material had not changed. The lessons had not changed. The instructor had not changed.

Apathy will cost us more than we can imagine and cause us to miss out on blessings...

Music

There was a famous classical violinist who was performing at Carnegie hall. Tickets were over \$200 each to hear this master musician perform. During the day the violinist went down to the subway and set up his violin case and played the exact same concert that he would play again that evening. He made a few dollars but most people simply walked on by without a second thought. At the concert he told his audience what he had done and that perhaps some of those who walked by were in attendance tonight. His point to the audience was to not be apathetic to those who are around you. You missed out on the concert in the subway because it didn't cost

you anything. There are many great musicians and talents in this world that nobody even notices, because we simply don't care to open our eyes.

Apathy will cause us to only value that which costs us personally...

Wright Brothers' Hometown

Orville and Wilbur Wright had tried repeatedly to fly a heavier-than-air craft. Finally one December day, off the sand dunes of Kitty Hawk, North Carolina, they did what man had never done before. They actually flew! Elated, they wired their sister Katherine, "We have actually flown 120 feet. Will be home for Christmas."

Hastily she ran down the street, shoved the telegram—the news scoop of the century—at the city editor of the local paper. He read it carefully and smiled, "Well, well! How nice the boys will be home for Christmas!" (Maxwell Droke)

Apathy will cause us to get our eyes on the wrong things...

Pelican Feast

There was once a flock of pelicans that happily fished off the coast of California. One day, a fishing company began cleaning their catch at a nearby dock, where it was convenient for them to cast the discarded fish scraps into the water. The pelicans, drawn to the daily ritual, soon gave up fishing for themselves and settled into a more domesticated existence. Life was pretty good for these pelicans, at least until the fishermen discovered that there was a market for fish scraps. Abruptly, the free meals ceased.

Despite this regrettable change of fortune, the pelicans continued to show up every day at meal-time, only to go away with empty stomachs. It wasn't long before the lack of sustenance began to take its toll. The unsightly appearance of the emaciated birds eventually drew the public's attention, and experts were called in to investigate the cause of their plight. For some unknown reason, the pelicans no

longer seemed able to access the abundance of food that teemed just below them in the sea. After a thorough investigation, it was concluded that the pelicans were starving to death because they'd forgotten how to fish!

Have you ever heard of anything so absurd? Pelicans were made to fish. But they had forgotten who they were and what they were made to do. (Michael Dillon)

Apathy will cause us to loose focus and forget what we are here to do...

You see apathy is dangerous...

When a child of God doesn't remember who they are and why they are here, they suffer. When apathy robs us to the point where we suffer from this spiritual amnesia then doubt and fear can take hold of our lives. It will rob us, of the Joy and fullness of life in Christ Jesus. You have been given a purpose to fulfill and apathy will cause you to waste away.

Apathy can destroy marriages...

If your marriage becomes boring or routine, the marriage will lose its joy. At this point the marriage becomes lukewarm... not hot or cold...

See the parallel here with the bride of Christ:
Revelations 3:15,16

I know your works, that you are neither cold nor hot. I wish that you were cold or hot. So, because you are lukewarm, and neither hot nor cold, I am going to vomit you out of My mouth

At this point the Husband becomes totally indifferent to the needs and desires of his wife and she responds the same way. Next communication starts to break down and pretty soon. They are living in the same house but apathy has taken root. Housework, mundane activities are the order of the day. There is no celebration of each other. A spirit of indifference takes hold, selfishness takes root and

pretty soon people begin to think... "I just don't love you anymore."
With nothing being done, there is a danger of divorce.

Apathy is destructive to purpose...

As human beings God created us to care! Read Genesis we were destined to be his caretakers of this world. If we allow apathy to take hold then our lives lose their meaning. Our purpose is destroyed.

Many of our churches today have allowed apathy to turn them into inward focused fruitless social clubs.

You know in psychology there is a term called Narcotizing Dysfunction. The concept was originally asserted by the sociologist Paul Lazarsfeld. Narcotizing Dysfunction is the idea that; as we as a society and as individuals become exposed to more and more information, we subconsciously confuse knowing about a problem for doing something about it. We become concerned and informed but we don't do anything about it.

As a church when you hear a sermon or message, you are educated and informed. Is the modern church suffering from Narcotizing Dysfunction? Do we live in a state of perpetual concern about issues without ever actually doing anything about them? Do we have the faith in place without the works? Has the Christian church grown apathetic?

If you have lost your zeal, your passion for Jesus – GET IT BACK!
Apathy leads to destruction.

Rev 3:15 NIV says:

"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."

Rev 3:14b-20 CEV

I am the one called Amen! I am the faithful and true witness and the source of God's creation. Listen to what I say.

Listen

I know everything you have done, and you are not cold or hot. I wish you were either one or the other.

He is talking about your faithfulness to God, the faith and to his church

But since you are lukewarm and neither cold nor hot, I will spit you out of my mouth.

The apathetic and complacent will be rejected

You claim to be rich and successful and to have everything you need.

We may think things are okay but if we are not on fire for God... they are not!

But you don't know how bad off you are. You are pitiful, poor, blind, and naked.

Without God we are in a sorry state

Buy your gold from me. It has been refined in a fire, and it will make you rich.

The presence of God is rich and pure and truth, it is what has value

Buy white clothes from me. Wear them and you can cover up your shameful nakedness.

Put on the righteousness of Christ

Buy medicine for your eyes, so that you will be able to see.

Seek healing from the great physician so that you can see the kingdom of God. Seek the gifts of the Holy Spirit so that you can see what is really going on around you.

I correct and punish everyone I love. So make up your minds to turn away from your sins.

God corrects us and guides us but we must be obedient to his voice

Listen!

We need to discern God's voice from the cacophony of noise all around us. His sheep hear his voice...

I am standing and knocking at your door. If you hear my voice and open the door, I will come in and we will eat together

Respond to God, he is right there waiting at the door to your heart. Let him in and feast together on the fruit your life will produce

Hear me! Apathy destroys – God creates!

Apathy is the opposite of Love

Jesus said in Matthew 7:21-23

“ Not everyone who says to Me, ‘ Lord, Lord, ’ shall enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of My Father in heaven. Many will say to Me in that day, ‘ Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in Your name, cast out demons in Your name, and done many wonders in Your name? ’ And then I will declare to them, ‘ I never knew you; depart from Me, you who practice lawlessness!”

We serve the God of Love. So... Get Zealous! Press in toward the mark or your high calling in Christ Jesus.

You are a royal priesthood a holy nation, a son or daughter of God!

Don't be apathetic royalty. Rule and reign with him and let's see his kingdom here today in Salmo!

Can I get an AMEN?

Prayer