

# **“The Love Of Many Will Grow Cold”**

**Introduction.** We all have experienced the cold temperatures the last few days. It can leave us lethargic and apathetic. The same can happen to us spiritually.

In the middle of giving signs of God’s judgment on Jerusalem, Jesus warned that the love of many will grow cold (Matthew 24:12). Only by enduring to the end could those Christians expect to be saved from the destruction of Jerusalem in A.D. 70.

If we are going to escape God’s eternal wrath we must not let our love grow cold, but persevere through the trials we face so that we can enjoy eternal bliss (Romans 2:7; 2 Peter 3:14). There are three good areas in which we should not let our love grow cold.

## **I. *Don’t Let Your Love Grow Cold For Your Spouse***

- A. Most have a good start but unresolved conflicts occur, tempers flare, and one spouse gives the other the “cold shoulder” treatment or become abusive.
- B. Instead of living joyfully with their spouse, they consider the flattering, beautiful, immodestly dressed woman or sympathetic man (Proverbs 5:15-18; 7:10-23). But the forbidden fruit of adultery will not bring satisfaction, but will produce pain, shame, and destruction to their souls (Proverbs 7:27).
- C. Husbands must remember their obligation to love their wives sacrificially as Christ loved the church and be tender towards them (Ephesians 5:25-27; 1 Peter 3:7). As the church is subject to Christ, the wife is to submit graciously to their own husband and respect him (Ephesians 5:22-24, 33).
- D. If you remember what Christ has done for you, and how much you love Him, you should not have a problem with your love growing cold for your spouse.

## **II. *Don’t Let Your Love Grow Cold For The Church***

- A. When brethren are lovers of something other than God they may be tempted to let their love grow cold for the church Christ died for (2 Timothy 3:1-5).
- B. We must fervently love our brethren. We are family (Ephesians 2:19; 1 Timothy 3:15; 1 Peter 1:22-25; 2:17). When we do, it gives evidence to others that we are His disciples (John 13:34-35).
- C. But what happens when there are trials, problems, and divisions among brethren? It maybe tempting to grow weary in doing what is right and quit, but we should continue to be zealous, love one another,

and humbly resolve any conflicts with the truth (Matthew 5:23-24; 18:15-17; Romans 12:10-21).

- D. Do not let your love grow cold so that you are bitter, angry, and hateful but be kind, tenderhearted, and forgive each other (Ephesians 4:31-32; Colossians 3:12-15).

### III. ***Don't Let Your Love Grow Cold For The Lost***

- A. With our love for the truth which tells us to hate sin, we may be guilty of hating the lost sinner and therefore not care about them (Psalm 119:104; cf. Luke 19:10).
- B. Jesus hated sin (John 2:14-16; 8:11), but never let His love grow cold for the lost on this earth (Matthew 9:10; John 15:13; Romans 5:8).
- C. He died to save those who mocked, ridiculed, and eventually crucified Him (Matthew 27:25; cf. Luke 23:34). Many of those cold-blooded murderers later obeyed the Lord and were saved (Acts 2:23, 36-41, 47).
- D. Jesus loved us and His love should compel us to teach the gospel to people who are headed for eternal torment (Acts 4:19-20; 8:4; 2 Corinthians 5:14).

**Conclusion.** The cold weather may leave us feeling lethargic and apathetic, but we can never let our love grow cold towards our spouse, brethren, and the lost. I know it is difficult, but your love in these three areas needs to continually boil over with enthusiasm (2 Thessalonians 3:13). If you realize that your love is growing colder so that you have lost your first love, you can repent of your sins and do the deeds you did at first (Revelation 2:5).

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