

Acclimated?

by Wayne Goff

This past week we had our first truly chilly weather. I think the low Friday morning was 37. The high one day was 59. It seemed **cold** to me. Then I realized that I was accustomed to warmer weather all summer long. Eventually, I thought, 50+ will feel “**warm**” to me and I will probably seek out the golf course and call it an “Indian summer day.” So what makes the difference?

Our bodies become acclimated to the weather over time. What feels cold today would be a heat wave in January! I’m sure you have all experienced what I’m talking about. But there is a spiritual point as well.

“Acclimate” means “become accustomed to a new climate, or new conditions.” This occurs socially as well. The moral atmosphere of America in 2021 would have never been tolerated 50 years ago. Those who have been gradually eroding our moral values understand that. I have often referred to it as the concept of “boiling a frog in water.” Put a frog in lukewarm water and gradually raise the temperature until he is boiled to death without realizing it. It turns out that this is a myth, possibly dating back to 1897. But everyone uses the analogy and the point is valid – slowly change the moral setting of a country, and pretty soon it will be much worse than before. Consider movie ratings, vulgar language tolerance, living together without marriage, cheating on tests, sexting, etc., etc. – these things were totally unacceptable in the past. What happened? I guess our “frog” got boiled.

What should Christians do? Be aware of the very real danger of accepting society’s norms as acceptable to God, when they are not! Peter warned on the Day of Pentecost nearly 2,000 years ago: “*Be saved from this perverse generation!*” (**Acts 2:40**). Paul stated “*that you may become blameless and harmless, children of God without fault in the midst of a crooked and perverse generation, among whom you shine as lights in the world*” (**Philippians 2:15**). John, the apostle of love, stated: “*We know that we are of God, and the whole world lies under the sway of the wicked one*” (**1 John 5:19**). Dear Christian, do not make the fatal mistake of thinking the world’s values are God’s!

364301