

Overcoming Apathy

Have you ever felt a creeping indifference settling into your heart, stealing your zeal, and silencing your spirit? Have you noticed thoughts such as: “Whatever,” or “Meh” or “Couldn’t care less,” attacking the meaningful thoughts in your mind? This, my friends, is the chilling grip of apathy. We live in a world saturated with distractions, a constant barrage of noise vying for our attention. It numbs us. We become desensitized to the truly meaningful, our hearts grow cold to the things that should ignite our souls. The urgency of our faith, the fire in our spirits, dwindles to a flickering ember. Apathy is killing the church, it’s killing Christians. Today, we must confront the apathy that threatens to suffocate our faith.

1. Paul and the Zealous Christian:
 - a. To leaders he said, “He who leads, with zeal.” | Rom 12:8
 - b. And to the church he said, “Do not be slothful in zeal, be fervent in spirit.” | Rom 12:11
 - c. He noted the Corinthians stirred others to action, “your zeal has stirred up.” | 2 Cor 9:2
 - d. Speaking of Epaphras, Paul told the Colossians “I bear him witness that he has a great zeal for you.” | Col 4:13
 - e. Paul praised Onesiphorus because “when he arrived in Rome, he sought me out very zealously and found me.” | 2 Tim 1:17
 - f. Who are we as Christians? “His own special people, zealous for good works.” | Tit 2:14
2. Yet, we live in a culture that breeds apathy; numb to the meaningful, but alive to the trivial.
3. As Christians, we know what the good is, but we often lack the zeal to care. | opp. Rom 10:2
4. Apathy is a soul-sucking killer of God’s people. | Pro 26:13-16
5. Causes of Apathy:
 - a. Triviality: If everything is awesome, then everything ceases to be awesome.
 - b. Lack of Discipline: Drowning in distractions + no spiritual discipline = *meh*.
 - c. Feelings of Inadequacy: It’s too big of a problem, so why bother?
6. Overcoming Apathy:
 - a. Perspective: Heaven, the reason to rise above the triviality. | Col 3:1-3; Php 4:8-9
 - b. Grace: Jesus’ easy yoke unburdens us to serve Him. | Mat 11:28-30; 1 Cor 15:10
 - c. Significance: To God, everything we do is valued by Him. | Luk 12:6-7; Mat 10:42; Rev 14:13

Maury County is watching. They see a culture obsessed with self, consumed by fleeting pleasures, and are numb to the cries of the hurting and the lost. But they also see us. They see the church, the Body of Christ. What do they see in our eyes? Do they see the fire of zeal, a passion for Jesus that spills over into a love for our community? Or do they see people who are adrift in a sea of distractions or who yawn in the face of eternity? Apathy is not our destiny. Our neighbors need a church that is alive with purpose, a people who burn with zeal for the gospel. Let us leave this place today with a renewed commitment to zeal! Let us show our community the transformative power of a faith that burns bright with zeal, even in the face of apathy and indifference.