**Marks of a Prosperous Church**

**Reading:**

1. I Cor 3:16,17 Know ye not ye are the temple of God---
2. I Cor 6:20 For ye are bought with a price-------
3. Matthew 18:20 Where two are three are gathered--------
4. Rev 3:14-20 Loadician church

**The above four references tell us two things**

1. That we are precious and important for God individually
2. That we are precious and important for God collectively

-As individuals we are created uniquely with God’s plan and purpose

-As human beings we have common features.

 1.We are born humanly

 2.We hunger

 3.We live

 4.We die

-In the general worldly realm we are joined by friendship and familiarity with others. As God’s people we need to love people

 just as Jesus loved. (John 3:16)

-It is only spiritually we are separated from the rest of the world and made as a family of God which is called **Church**.

-The other name for church is **Body of Christ**

-This church or body of Christ has three types of people:

 1.True believers

 2.Lukewarm believers

 3.Unbelievers who may be your brothers, sisters, parents and your own children.

**The second type of people are harmful to themselves and other fellow believers and members of their own family.**

 - They are look alikes (As true Christians)

 - They want to be in the church and want to

 be in the world

 - They want to travel in two boats at a time

**The third category are those not born again and can be categorized as unbelievers**

 They may be in your own family, they sit for family prayer, but just as a habit. They go to the church with you, sing songs, read bible, hear sermon and behave as Christians, but in reality they are not. They heard and know the gospel. They even say they are Born-Again because they are born in a Christian family. The world has great pressure on them.

Now let us consider the first type who are true Christians:

**By considering them we also come to know who are the lukewarm Christians.**

 1.They long to express their love for the Lord with great joy. They worship the Lord with great longing and enthusiasm.

 2.They love fellow believers whole heartedly with no selfish motives.

 3.They long to live a holy life always.

 4.They long to grow spiritually more and more

 5.They long to keep God’s commandments with all their soul, mind and heart and enjoy God’s power and assurance continuously

 6.Every true believer longs to fulfil Lord’s great commission that says “Go Ye in to the world and preach the gospel- unto the uttermost parts of the world. If God gives them the opportunity to travel to other countries, they will simply exploit the opportunity.

7.They utterly hate sin and flee from temptations.

8.They hate hypocritical living and seek to be truthful always

9.They don’t compromise and unequally yoked with the worldly people and show they are different. (There is a saying: Tell me who is your friend and I will tell you who you are)

10.They are capable of perceiving the things that are spiritually best.

11.They will not keep their faith secret.

12.They are kind and generous.

13.They carefully live a Christian life bringing no reproach to the house of God.

14.For them, Jesus Christ is supreme in each and every activity. They seek His will and depend upon Him in every aspect of their life

15.They do not misuse their prosperity.

16.They out rightly acknowledge and say sorry if they go wrong in anyway. They do not justify.

17.They gladly allow themselves to be corrected.

18.They do not forsake the house of God. They honor the Lord’s day. They are regular and punctual.

19.Envy, anger and pride do not live with them

20.They want to escape the pressures of this world so that they

 can focus on their spiritual life and to edify others.

21.They will not put their confidence on things of this world

22.They do not misuse their time. (Eph5:16)

23.They do not seek too much of worldly information, rather they seek godly education and study the word of God (Holy Bible)

 24.They bring their tithes of gross income regularly to the house

 of God.

 25.They do not have the fear of future. Because they know who holds their future.

 26.They are proactive to the spiritual warnings from the pulpit.

 27.They are careful about wrong doctrines that try to creep into

 their life, family and church. (Rev 2.6)

 28.They are keen in bringing up their children in the fear and nurture of the Lord, no matter what (Finances, time etc)

 29.They are concerned about poor and needy just like Paul the Apostle.

 30.They do not seek worldly popularity and fame

 31.They are not victims of flattery. They are not easily puffed up.

32.They do not have boredom. They are busy all the time in the

work of the Lord or in the things that concern their life.

33.Seeking Lord’s help in prayer is their first approach as they face

 life issues.

34.They are genuine promise keepers.

35.They are of high integrity and highly dependable and sought

 after.

**But the lukewarm Christians are aptly described by Jeremiah the prophet in Jeremiah2:13:**

“ For my people have committed two evils; they have forsaken me the fountain of living waters, and hewed them out cisterns, broken cisterns that can hold no water”

**What does the Lord say in I Cor 3:16,17**

“Know ye not that ye are the temple of God, and that the Spirit of God dwelleth in you? If any man defile the temple of God, him shall God destroy; for the temple of God is holy,

which temple ye are”

**Also what the Lord says in Revelation 3:16**

“So then because thou art lukewarm, and neither cold nor hot I will spue thee out of my mouth”

**But our loving Lord waits for the backsliding Christian (lukewarm) to return and appeals in Revelation 3:20**

“Behold, I stand at the door and knock: if any man hear my voice and open the door, I will come in to him and will sup with him and he with me.”

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