



Revelation 3:14-22 Small Group Discussion Questions

- Have someone in your group read Revelation 3:14-22. What do you notice about this church? How is this church similar or different to the other churches we've studied in Revelation?
- How does Jesus introduce Himself to the church at Laodicea in verse 14?
 - Why do you think Jesus calls Himself the "Amen" to this church? What does this mean, do you think?
 - Ben said that for Jesus to be God's "Amen" means that everything that is true of God is true of Jesus. If this is the case, what do we learn about God by looking at Jesus?
 - He also says that He is the "faithful and true witness." What is Jesus a witness to? Why does this matter?
 - Ben preached that Jesus is witness both to God *and* to us; He knows us. What are some reasons that we need Jesus to see us?
 - Ben noted that we need Jesus to see us because we are often blind to ourselves. When have you recently discovered something about yourself that you didn't know?
 - Why is it hard to know ourselves? What makes it hard to see ourselves rightly?

- How does looking at Jesus help us to see ourselves correctly?
 - The theologian and Reformer John Calvin, in a similar vein, said that true wisdom consists in “knowledge of God and knowledge of ourselves.” How can we, practically, gain greater knowledge by looking at Jesus this week? How can we practically gain greater knowledge of ourselves in our day-to-day life?
- Finally, Jesus also calls Himself “the ruler of God’s creation.” Why do you think the church in Laodicea needed this reminder? When have you needed this reminder?
 - What are some implications of Jesus’ rule and reign for your life?
 - One implication, Ben said, is that everything we have is on loan from Jesus; He actually owns it all. How does this change how we view our possessions?
 - What is it about material and possessions that make us want to have more?
 - When has Jesus led you to be more open-handed with the gifts that He has given you? What happened?
 - Concretely, how can we make sure we keep Jesus’ rule at the forefront of our lives, and the gifts that He’s given us secondary to His rule?
- What does Jesus say is the problem with the Laodicean church in verses 15-17? What has gone wrong here?
 - What does it mean for this church to be “lukewarm”?
 - Why would Jesus prefer the church to be “hot” or “cold”? What do you think this means?
 - How does Jesus react to the lukewarm church?

- Ben said that this does *not* mean that Jesus would rather the church hate Him instead of living a lukewarm faith; instead, Jesus wishes they would be *useful*, like hot and cold water are useful. In what ways might a church cease to be useful?
- If you walked into a lukewarm church, what would it feel like? What would be some signs that a church has grown lukewarm?
- What about you? When have you felt that your faith had become a room-temperature faith? How were you able to tell?
- What are some things that might cause our faith to become lukewarm?
- Verse 17 indicates that the wealth and comfort around the church had made Christians there lukewarm. How might comfort, wealth, and possessions create lukewarm faith in us?
- Similarly, how might comfort, wealth, and possessions blind us to our true spiritual state? Has this ever happened to you?
- How have you, in your life, faithfully stewarded God's gifts while staying away from lukewarm faith?
- Practically, if you feel that your faith is lukewarm, what are some steps you can take in the coming days to arrive back at a useful faith?
- How do you know that you have left lukewarm Christianity and arrived back at a zealous, useful faith?
- Jesus provides a few solutions for this church in verses 18-20. What are these solutions? What do they consist of?
 - What is gold refined in the fire, do you think? Why would the riches of grace that are tested, refined, and not lost in trials lead to a renewed and zealous faith?
 - What are the white clothes to wear? How does turning to Jesus' righteousness to clothe us lead us away from lukewarm Christianity?

- How does Jesus put salve on our eyes to see? How has your faith in Jesus enabled you to see—yourself, God, and the world—where you unable to see before?
- In the context of this passage, what does verse 20 say about the grace that is available to us as believers?
 - How does Jesus' ongoing offer of reconciliation to sinful believers soften our hearts and lead to repentance?
 - When have you turned back to Jesus after wandering from Him? How did you experience His grace upon your return?
- What is the reward given to the zealous believers in verse 21? Again, how does our future exaltation with Christ lead to a zealous faith today?