RELIGIOUS INDIFFERENCE

INTRODUCTION:

1. INDIFFERENCE or Apathy is destroying congregation after congregation.
2. Indifference means: "Unconcerned; not caring how things go; apathetic"
3. One who is indifferent has no interest. Acts 18: 12 - 17
4. The one talent man was indifferent. Matt. 25: 14 - 15, 24 - 30
5. The church at Laodicea was indifferent. Rev. 3: 14 - 19

I. SOME OF THE FRUITS OF INDIFFERENCE

1. Being habitually late for services.
   (1) Nearly every congregation has some late-comers.
   (2) This condition in a congregation has a tendency to MINIMIZE the VALUE of Bible Study and Worship, not only for those who are late, but also for those who are prompt.
   (3) If you are one of these habitually late-arrivers, you can greatly increase the value of the period of Bible study and worship for yourself and for others by correcting this condition.
   (4) The late-comer handicaps those who are prompt by diverting their minds from the object of their study and worship to the late-comer.
   (5) If all were late it would be impossible to conduct the service with order -- I Cor. 14:40
   (6) Keeping one’s appointments on time is important for one’s own character.
   (7) Habitual lateness shows indifference to the Lord’s cause.

2. Talking and note-passing is a fruit of indifference.
   (1) There has been some of this going on in this congregation of late, and a hint to the wise is sufficient.
   (2) We have come into this assembly to worship our God -- John 4: 23 - 24; Matt. 18:20; Psa. 89:7
   (3) He is to be served and worshipped "With reverence and godly fear" Heb. 12:28
   (4) God is not to be trifled with. Heb. 12:29; Deut. 4: 24
   (5) Christians are to be Godly. II Pet. 1:6; II Pet. 2:9
      1. They are devout, with reverence to God.
      2. They have the right attitude toward God and right conduct appropriate thereto.

3. A failure to attend all the services of the church is a fruit of indifference.
   (1) The attitude of "Do you think one must attend all the services?" is an indifferent attitude.
   (2) The proper attitude toward the assemblies. Psa. 122:1
   (3) Some reasons for attending all the assemblies:
      1. It is a command. Heb. 10:25; John 14:15
      2. To be with the Lord. Matt. 18:20
      3. To be taught. Matt. 28: 19 - 20; Acts 2:42; 20:7
      5. To be an example. I Tim. 4:12; Phil. 2:15
4. A failure to study is a fruit of indifference.
   (1) When one does not take time every day to study his Bible, he is indifferent. Psa. 1:2
   (2) Some reasons for studying the Word of God:
      1. A Command -- II Tim. 2:15; II Pet. 1:5
      2. To gain knowledge to teach others -- I Pet. 3:15; II Tim. 2:2
      3. To feed our soul -- I Pet. 2:2; Acts 20:32
      4. Prepare to defend the faith -- Jude 3; Phil. 1:17

5. A failure to pray is a fruit of indifference. I Thess. 5:17; Lk. 18:1; Phil. 4:6; James 5:16; I Pet. 3:12

6. A failure to work is a fruit of indifference. Phil. 2:12; I Cor. 15:58

II. THE CAUSES OF INDIFFERENCE

1. MATERIALISM -- the seeking after things and stuff; the love of money. I Tim. 6:9
   (1) Better cars, better houses, better furniture
   (2) The seeking after pleasure all the time.
   (3) Jesus warns us over and over about materialism. Matt. 6:24; 13:22; Matt. 6:19 - 20; Lk. 12:15 - 21

2. WORLDLINESS -- I John 2:15 - 17; James 4:4; Rom. 12:1 - 2
   (1) Lovers of pleasure more than lovers of God. II Tim. 3:4
   (2) Many members of the church conform to this world in dress, in actions, in speech, in activities.

3. The WRONG ASSOCIATES -- I Cor. 15:33; II Cor. 6:14 - 17

4. "And because lawlessness will abound, the love of many will grow cold"... Matt. 24:12 NIV

III. THE EVIL INFLUENCE OF INDIFFERENCE

1. The indifferent person has an evil influence on the brethren.
   (1) He influences them to be indifferent.

2. And indifferent church has no power to influence the world.
   (1) Indifference hinders the conversion of souls.

IV. THE CURE FOR INDIFFERENCE.

1. Every day let God say something to us through His word. II Tim. 2:15; Acts 20:32
2. Every day DO and SAY something for God. Gal. 6:10; James 4:17; James 5:19 - 20; Matt. 28:19 - 20; I Cor. 15:58
3. Every day say something to God in prayer. James 5:16; Lk. 18:1
CONCLUSION:

1. Brethren, let us all work hard to overcome indifference in our lives.
2. Indifference will destroy our souls and the souls of others.
3. Are you here and have never obeyed the gospel?
4. Won’t you do so now?