



The Fellowship Table of the Lord (Rev. 3:20)

RETURN Conference, Breakout Session
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**²⁰ “Behold, I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears My voice and opens the door, I will come in to him and dine with him, and he with Me.”
(Revelation 3:20)**

I. INTRODUCTION

A. The Holy Spirit, in the context of our spiritual family as well as other settings, is drawing many into a conversation and calling us into a deeper vision for having the first commandment in the first place.

**³⁷ “Jesus said to Him, “ ‘ You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all you mind. ³⁸ This is the first and great commandment.”
(Matthew 22:37-38)**

**¹⁸ “Come now, and let us reason together,” says the Lord,
“Though your sins are like scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; though they are red like crimson, they shall be as wool.”
(Isaiah 1:18)**

B. Over the years the Lord has spoken through various vessels about the church in this hour being overcome by a lukewarm spirit as described in Rev. 3:15-18. The lukewarm spirit is seeking to do the works (Rev. 3:15) of the kingdom through self-reliance and self-sufficiency (Rev. 3:17) resulting from living a life disconnected from the realm of His love (Rev. 3:19) and deep fellowship with Him (Rev. 3:20).



- C. Lukewarm spirituality acclimated itself to the surrounding social culture. The Laodicean spirit keeps us blind and unaware in a sluggish spiritual condition. The Lord has a few million in the land who are fully committed to the Lord. However, the predominant narrative in the American church is a faith that provides and sustains that the American dream as the highest. The result of this is seeking to build the church in the way and manner of the culture which doesn't produce disciples with a primary vision to have deep fellowship with Jesus and a vibrant spirit as their inheritance.

¹⁷ “Because you say, ‘I am rich, have become wealthy, and have need of nothing’...”

(Revelation 3:17)

- D. Jesus deeply loves His church (Rev. 3:19) and He is knocking on the door of our heart. Jesus' knock speaks of His wholehearted and persistent pursuit of us (Lk. 11:8-9). Some of the ways He knocks is by releasing righteous desires to seek Him more earnestly and also by intervening into personal, social and global scenarios. The current global shifts are significantly related to Jesus' knocking.

² “Daniel spoke, saying, “I saw in my vision by night, and behold, the four winds of heaven were stirring up the Great Sea ... ¹⁴ Then to Him was given dominion and glory and a kingdom, that all peoples, nations, and languages should serve Him. His dominion is an everlasting dominion, which shall not pass away, and His kingdom the one which shall not be destroyed ... ²² until the Ancient of Days came, and a judgment was made in favor of the saints of the Most High, and the time came for the saints to possess the kingdom.”

(Daniel 7:2, 14, 22)

²¹ To him who overcomes I will grant to sit with Me on My throne, as I also overcame and sat down with My Father on His throne.

(Revelation 3:21)



- E. Jesus the Bridegroom God is contending with His Bride so she may inherit and share in His eternal inheritance, ruling and reigning with Him in bridal partnership administering God's kingdom.

II. 'FATHER I DESIRE': JESUS LOVES THE LAODICEAN GENERATION

¹⁹ ***"As many as I love, I rebuke and chasten. Therefore, be zealous and repent..."***

(Revelation 3:19)

- A. Jesus is pained (Rev. 3:16) over the lack of intimate relationship and spiritual condition of the church of Laodicea. He clearly states to Laodicea His affection and desire for her. The enemy seeks to assault our emotions with the lie that Jesus is postured with an attitude of indifference and rejection.
- B. Jesus boldly declared His love (Rev. 3:19) and desired that they rule with Him (Rev. 3:21). Jesus is filled with deep desire for His church and His placed His request before the Father to have a people who are filled with the same affection, commitment and desire as the Father has for His Son. The Holy Spirit will deliver and anoint those who respond with grace to walk out the first commandment.
- C. Jesus will have a church who will respond and walk in the fullness of what God has for us.

²⁶ ***"And I have declared to them Your name, and will declare it, that the love with which You loved Me may be in them, and I in them."***

(John 17:26)

⁹ ***"But, Beloved, we are confident of better things concerning you, yes, things that accompany salvation, though we speak in this manner."***

(Hebrews 6:9)



- D. To be free of a “lukewarm spirit” speaks of walking in the same zealous love God has towards us. Jesus calls for “zealous repentance” because He is zealous towards us. The opposite of a “lukewarm spirit” is yielding fully to the Spirit’s work as He places the first commandment in the first place. When Jesus returns the global church will walk in the grace of the first commandment.

²⁴“For the Lord your God is a consuming fire, a jealous God.”

(Deuteronomy 4:24)

- E. One of the primary spiritual crises exposed during the 2020 lockdown is boredom. Boredom can be defined as weary restlessness connected with feelings of disinterest or indifference. Boredom is a deadly spiritual condition because it makes us vulnerable to other courses of satisfaction.

²“For My people have committed two evils: they have forsaken Me the fountain of living waters, and hewn themselves cisterns—broken cisterns that can hold no water.”

(Jeremiah 2:2)

⁸“And those ... on the earth will marvel, whose names are not written in the Book of Life from the foundation of the world, when they see the beast that was, and is not, and yet is.”

(Revelation 17:8)

- F. Many in the church are unaware of the incredibly glorious promise that is before us. Jesus promises deep meaningful relationship and fellowship with Him in this age resulting in a vibrant spirit.
- G. Jesus places the greatest invitation before the church which is the place of deep fellowship with Him in this age as well as in the age to come. However, the intimacy that awaits us in this life is profoundly beyond what we have now or ever tasted. There is so much more available in His heart.

⁸“They are abundantly satisfied with the fullness of Your house, and You give them drink from the river of Your pleasures.”

(Psalm 36:8)



III. The Invitation to Dine with The Lord

- A. The way forward to be set free from the Laodicean spirit and overcoming it is having a vision to answer the Lord's invitation to open our heart, let Him in and fellowship (dine) with the Lord. When we dine with the Lord it is an expression of intimacy. It is the Lord's desire (Lk. 22:15) to lead us to the place of deep communion with the divine family — Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

“He brought me to the banqueting house, and His banner (leadership) over me was love.”

(Song of Solomon 2:4)

- B. There are several implications connected to the idea of Jesus inviting us to dine with Him. The dining table is traditionally a place of family, identity, relating, sharing and remembering.
- C. The banqueting table is the place Jesus seeks to lead us to and it is the place where we learn, experience and express His love to the Father, the Son, and Holy Spirit as well as to one another. The Lord's table is a place where love is thought and spoken of, celebrated and expressed. There are powerful dimensions of this and we can experience in this life (Heb. 6:5) and the age to come (Rev. 9:7).

“And have tasted the good word of God and the powers of the age to come.”

(Hebrews 6:5)

“Then he said to me, ‘Write: blessed are those who are called to the marriage supper of the Lamb!’”

(Revelation 19:9)

- D. At the banqueting table we discover our identity as loved of God and that our primary purpose in life is to learn, receive, experience and express God's love to God and others. The table is the place of communion with His presence through His word, where a deep longing for love is awakened.



⁵“Sustain me with cakes of raisins, refresh me with apples, for I am lovesick.”

(Song of Solomon 2:5)

- E. There are several references to the Lord in the context of dining. There is insight to be gained in many of these passages of what takes place at the table with the Lord. (Gen. 18:8; Ex. 24:10; Ps. 23:5; Isa. 25:6-8; Mt. 9:10; Mk. 14:3; 16:14; Lk. 7:37-49; 11:37-39; 14:10-15; 22:21-30; 24:30; Jn. 12:2; 13:1-17:26; 1 Cor. 10:21; Rev. 3:20' 19:5-10).
- F. The article “Why We Eat Together” states “The dining table is disappearing. Fewer are being sold now in rich economies, apparently. This says a lot about the times we live in. The table is less and less the center of family life.” The reason for this is because of the fast pace of rich economies.
- G. The nature of dining is that it requires planning and preparation (Mt. 26:19). There is a deliberation involved in the preparation as well as the participation. It takes us slowing down and being intentional. Jesus tells the church to be zealous (focused) in the process of engaging Jesus in dining.

²⁰“Therefore, be zealous and repent. Behold, I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears My voice and opens the door, I will come in to him and dine with him, and he with Me.”

(Revelation 3:20)

IV. Dining with the Lord Through His Word

- A. The journey to the table often involves the growing awareness of our barrenness, boredom and sluggishness. This is often a sign of the Holy Spirit working inside of us. The Laodicean spirit blinds us from this awareness. However, when we begin to respond to the Lord's knock on the door, we often discover the faithfulness of His assessment of our spiritual condition and our great need.

¹⁷“Because you say, ‘I am rich, have become wealthy, and have need of nothing’—and do not know that you are wretched, miserable, poor, blind, and naked ...”

(Revelation 3:17)



- B. There are moments where our emotions betray and lead us to think that the boredom and disinterest that we possess is a reflection of His posture towards us. It requires faith to believe Jesus' testimony.
- C. The repentance that Jesus requires consists of change of action as well as change of thought. Jesus, before telling Laodicea to repent, tells them that He loves them. Part of the process of repentance is filling our minds with the subject of the love of God as our primary diet.

¹⁶“Your words were found, and I ate them, and Your word was to me the joy and rejoicing of my heart; for I am called by Your name, O Lord God of hosts.”

(Jeremiah 15:16)

- D. Jesus told us to live in the understanding of the Father's love for His Son and that this same love is towards the church. We love in the understanding of God's love by listening to teachings on the love of God, reading the Word of God, speaking to God, expressing love to God and others, and instructing others to live in His love.

⁹“As the Father loved Me, I also have loved you; abide in My love.”

(John 15:9)

- E. The zealous or focused turning to the Lord is about staying with doing regular spiritual pushups, speaking phrases to the Lord. We must not underestimate the power of speaking weak words to God. The shortest of glances, loving phrases of adoration and inquiry move Him deeply.

⁹“...You have ravished my heart with one look of your eyes, with one link of your necklace.”

(Song of Solomon 4:9)

- F. When we turn to the Lord, though we may still feel far and barren, the Father seems the small faith movement of our heart and obedience. This moves Him with compassion and with great eagerness He draws near to us. He takes us into His embrace and assures us of His deep affections for us.



²⁰“And he arose and came to his father. But when he was still a great way off, his father saw him and had compassion, and ran and fell on his neck and kissed him”

(Luke 15:20)

G. Some practical resources:

1. Growing in Prayer Pt. 1 —

[HTTPS://WWW.YOUTUBE.COM/WATCH?V=9W2DL-MOR5Q&LIST=PLIFSQJ2QHKZLWIGFYBDWBIGN_97VHWA2D](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9W2DL-MOR5Q&list=PLIFSQJ2QHKZLWIGFYBDWBIGN_97VHWA2D)

2. Growing in Prayer Pt. 2 —

[HTTPS://WWW.YOUTUBE.COM/PLAYLIST?LIST=PLIFSQJ2QHKZIO-TA87RKYRIJEPFPA5VSZ](https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLIFSQJ2QHKZIO-TA87RKYRIJEPFPA5VSZ)

3. Abiding in Love: Experiencing the Heart of God —

[HTTPS://MIKEBICKLE.ORG/SERIES/ABIDING-IN-LOVE%3A-EXPERIENCING-THE-HEART-OF-GOD](https://mikebickle.org/series/abiding-in-love%3A-experiencing-the-heart-of-god)

