

OH BROTHER!

WHAT IS APATHY?

Have you ever noticed the color of many of the backdrops in catalogs? If you guessed white, you're right. White is the absence of color and it makes colors such as red, pink, and blue stand out.

People are like colors as well. Apathetic teens are bleached and serve as a stark contrast to those red hot teens who really love the Lord. Teens need to realize that it is not OK to be spiritual spittle in God's mouth. They need to hear the rest of the story.

To show teens the sinfulness of apathy.

Teens will:

- realize that apathy is not pleasing to God
- see how apathy contradicts the character of God
- recognize the hypocrisy of apathy
- be challenged to live in the Spirit

Revelation 3:14-18 addresses the Laodicean congregation and reveals the shortcomings of this church. Compared to the incomparable Christ, the Laodiceans fell drastically short.

LESSON AIM

OBJECTIVES

TEXT

What You Need:

- copies of "Hero Sandwich" and "Dream Date"
- pens or pencils
- a plain sandwich
- lunch bag
- sandwich ingredients
- a copy of "Positive Responses?"
- hat
- chalk and chalkboard

The Lesson

WARM-UP

What you need: either copies of “Hero Sandwich,” “Dream Date,” and pens or pencils or a plain sandwich in a lunch bag and sandwich ingredients

BRIDGE

CONTENT

LISTING

Option #1: Distribute copies of “Hero Sandwich” to the guys and “Dream Date” to the girls. Discuss the necessary qualities of both after they have finished.

Option #2: Pull out of a paper bag a scrawny little sandwich with barely anything between the bread. Ask them if this is their idea of a hero sandwich. Have the ingredients for making a hero sandwich available and let the teens participate in making it by telling you how to put it together.

We have mental images of the way things should look. For many the word “Christian” conjures up certain images. Apathy is an ingredient that does not fit the picture—we are to be full and healthy like the hero sandwich; not anemic and dried out.

The defining marks of apathy are given in Christ’s rebuke to the Laodicean church.

I. IT IS THE LACK OF SINCERITY (v. 14).

The word *Amen* describes Jesus Christ as an unchangeable, true, fixed, credible Person who does all that He says. This is not true of the Laodiceans. The very names used to describe Christ act as barbs of judgment to prick the consciences of men.

Apathetic teens who profess Christ are insincere in that they are not living up to their new name. Christ is certainly not apathetic, and it is wrong for a Christian to wear the title and misrepresent the Lord.

What if Christ were apathetic? What would have happened and what would happen now? Name the things that Christ would not have done if He were apathetic.

1. Never came to earth as a man (no need)
2. Never called 12 disciples to Himself (too much responsibility)

3. Never taught in the synagogues (too much effort)
4. Never risked His life because of the threatening Jews (self-preservation)
5. Never rebuked the Pharisees (why care about what they are doing?)
6. Never fed the five thousand (only cares about His own needs)

II. IT IS THE LACK OF TRUSTWORTHINESS (v. 14).

The quality of faithfulness is also seen in our Lord; He is called “Faithful.” This simply means that you can depend upon Him at all times (Deuteronomy 7:9; Isaiah 49:7; 2 Thessalonians 3:3).

It is nigh unto impossible to depend upon a person who just does not care. What kind of responsibilities can be given to them? Who can count on them to come through in a jam? Apathy erodes any bit of trustworthiness that a person might have had. Words mean less when an apathetic person promises to do something.

III. IT IS THE LACK OF SACRIFICE (v. 14).

Christ spent His life testifying to others about Himself and salvation. He made the ultimate statement by becoming a martyr for the cause. Christ deserves to be called the Witness because His sacrifice was one of such great magnitude. His death sealed the fact that He was willing to stand firm in His beliefs and die for the cause, testifying to the very end.

Such sacrifice is not on the agenda of an apathetic Christian. Just getting by is the only cross they are willing to bear. They are interested only in appearance and have no substance or spiritual depth.

Have six teens come up and pick out a slip of paper with one of the responses written on it. You will ask the questions in order.

You may replace these questions with others that are more appropriate. The idea is to ask the teens to do something that you most likely have already asked them to do or will ask of them. Have six teens line up in the front of the room and as you read off the question, they will pull a slip of paper and read the response with enthusiasm or apathy. The rest of the teens will respond to each positive answer by shouting, “Cool beans” and every apathetic response by saying “Kerplop!”

Say, “At times you may be asked to serve the Lord in areas that may interrupt your comfort zone. How willing are you to sacrifice?”



ACTIVITY

What you need: a copy of “Positive Responses?” with the answers cut apart and placed in a hat

IV. IT IS THE LACK OF CHRISTLIKENESS (vv. 14-15).

Jesus Christ is the origin or source of creation. Man was created by God and as such is to reflect the image of God through righteous living which gives glory to the Creator. To be apathetic is to diminish the amount of glory that can be reflected back to God.

The word “hot” means to boil or to be fervent. God desires Christians to be fervent about the work of the Lord, not half-hearted and lackadaisical. To be lukewarm is to fall short of what pleases the Lord.

CLOSING

What you need: chalk and chalkboard

Read Galatians 5:22-23 and challenge the teens to show the fruit of the Spirit in some very tangible ways. List a few ideas on the chalkboard such as:

- patience—spend time helping someone else in need
 - kindness—write a note of encouragement
 - self-control—be gentle with someone who normally makes you angry
- Close in prayer.

HERO SANDWICH

Hey guys, there is nothing better than a real man's sandwich. This ain't no sissy food. You have \$3 to spend, so build yourself a hungry man's sandwich—don't hold back anything.

BREADS

- Kaiser Rolls- .30
- Pumpernickel - .20
- Whole wheat rolls- .40

FIXINGS

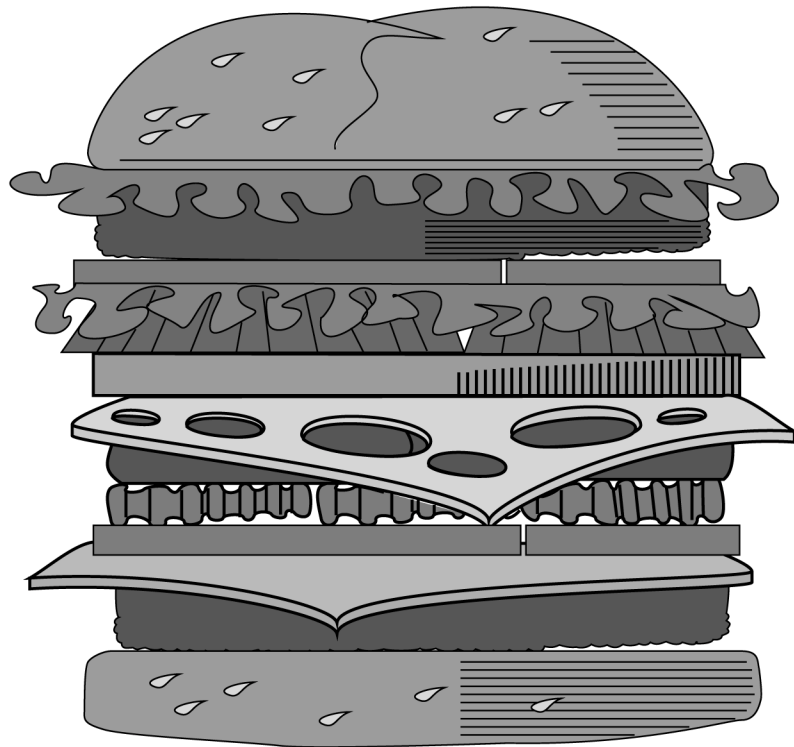
- Cucumbers- .20
- Lettuce- .10
- Tomatoes- .25
- Vidalia onion- .60
- Black olives- .50
- Green peppers- .35
- Hot peppers- .45
- Olive oil- .05
- Mustard- .05
- Mayonnaise- .05
- Horseradish sauce- .10

MEATS

- Ham- .75
- Turkey- .75
- Roast beef- .75
- Salami- .50
- Bologna- .50

CHEESES

- Swiss- .40
- Cheddar- .40
- Monterrey Jack- .40



Dream Date

Girls seem to have their own ideas of what a dream date would be, not just the guy, but what the actual date would be like. Use this opportunity to create your dream date.

Describe a few of the characteristics of the guy you would date. Such

things as charming, tall, _____

Where would you go? _____

Would you go with another couple? Who? _____

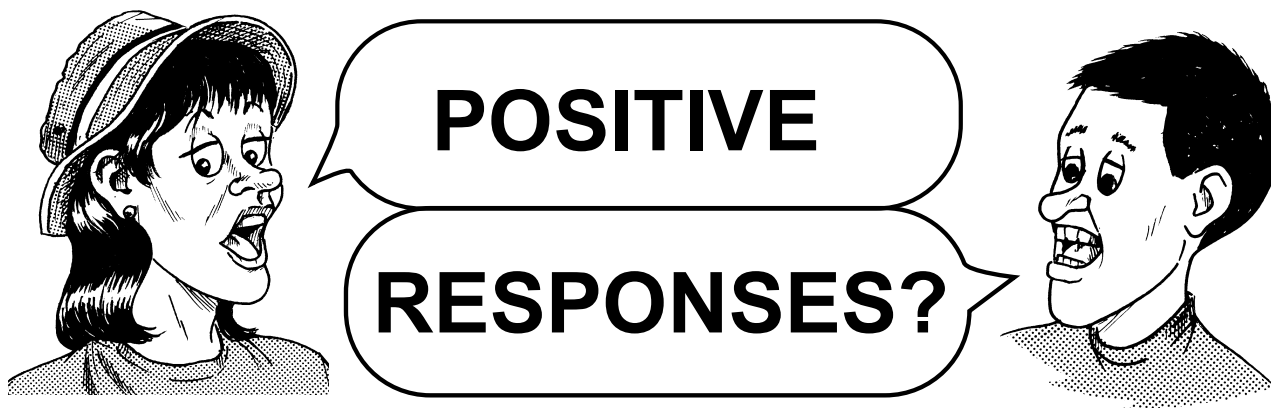
What would you wear? _____

What kind of car would he drive? _____

What kind of atmosphere? (candlelight/ fast food) _____

How much money would he spend? _____

How would the date end? _____



I HAVE TO FIX MY TOASTER

UHHHHH, ME?

YOU BETCHA I WILL!

NOT A CHANCE THIS SIDE OF HEAVEN!

YEEESSSS, I WILL

NO WAY MAN, I AIN'T DOIN' IT

The questions to be asked are as follows:

1. Could you please clean up after the youth meeting tonight?
2. I need some teen to help in Junior Church, can you be there?
3. The toilet is clogged in the bathroom, do you mind unplugging it?
4. Could you babysit my kids while I am gone tonight?
5. Do you mind baking cookies for Vacation Bible School?
6. Could you help change diapers in the nursery?