

July 11, 2021

## Apathy

by Warren Berkley

Apathy is something that has ill effects in every area of human enterprise. In matters of politics and government we hear the expression “voter apathy.” In the retail industry and in all areas of business and manufacturing, one problem is people who are employed to do a certain job but they simply don’t care about excellence, competence or customer service. We may know people who are apathetic about their health, their appearance or their finances. This simply means, they don’t care.

The word “apathy” is interesting. It is from the Greek *apatheia*, which means without feeling. In English we have the word *pathos* which means strong passion and emotion. The prefix “a” means without, so again, apathy means without feeling; no passion, no emotion. One common expression that captures this is, WHO CARES? Apathy toward God is exemplified by the Laodiceans who were “neither cold nor hot,” (Revelation 3:14–16). “Science may have found a cure for most evils, but it has found no remedy for the worst of them all—the apathy of human beings” (Helen Keller).

Before we can defeat apathy we need to understand the nature of it. When I preach about this I tell about the basis, the fuel, the behavior, the attitude and the language of apathy. Unbelief is the basis of apathy; ingratitude is the fuel of apathy; inaction is the behavior of

apathy; indifference is the attitude of apathy and silence is the language of apathy.

Once defined and identified, our next work is to defeat it and to re-defeat apathy every day. How can we overcome apathy every day? I have three answers: Faith, Love and Hope (1 Corinthians 13:13; 1 Thessalonians 1:3; 1 Thessalonians 5:8; Colossians 1:3–5).

This is the way to overcome apathy on a daily basis; through faith, love and hope! If I open my heart to the Word of God so that saving faith is produced within me—faith in God, in Christ, in the Word—and if that faith is sufficient to move me, cause me to act, to walk in the light of God’s word; to obey and please Him, that faith rules over apathy. “For whatever is born of God overcomes the world. And this is the victory that has overcome the world; our faith. Who is he who overcomes the world, but he who believes that Jesus is the Son of God?” (See 1 John 5:4, 5; Hebrews 11:6).

And as that faith works within me one product is love; genuine affection for God, a passionate love for Christ; a deep affection and devotion to the truth. That love drives apathy away. (See 1 Corinthians 13; Matthew 22:38–40) Apathy has no ground to grow out of in a heart occupied with this love. “... you shall love the LORD your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with

## Welcome!

When you visit our assemblies, you will be received friendly, kindly and courteously. We believe this to be the natural attitude of those who truly love God and mankind. Though you may at first be among strangers, we hope that you will come to know us well and count us as your friends.

**We offer Bible studies as well as correspondence courses for those interested in learning more about what God expects of us.**

## Important Dates

Bulverde is having their summer series “Gifts We Can Use For God” each Thursday through August 19.

The Lakewood Drive church of Christ in Georgetown will be having a singing on July 17 at 6:00 p.m.

Westside Annual Youth Lectures - July 30 - Aug. 1 in Irving

*If you know of upcoming events, please inform Darrell so they can be included here.*

all your mind. This is the first and great commandment. And the second is like it: You shall love your neighbor as yourself. On these two commandments hang all the Law and the Prophets” (Matthew 22:38–40; see also 1 Corinthians 13).

With that faith and love an associated quality is HOPE; assurance that God is faithful; that every promise will be kept; that at the end of this life we will not be left in a grave but raised to glory. “For our citizenship is in heaven, from which we also eagerly wait for the Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ, who will transform our lowly body that it may be conformed to His glorious body, according to the working by which He is able even to subdue all things to Himself” (Philippians 3:20, 21; see also 1 Corinthians 15).

If we do not open up our Bibles and seek the development of faith, love and hope—there isn’t any doubt, apathy will kill us! It will slowly kill us individually, collectively and will do lasting damage in our marriages and families. If apathy is allowed to do its daily damage, it will be a slow extinction that will deliver us to spiritual death. What we have learned is this: When there is faith, love and hope working in us—apathy has no basis; apathy suffers from a lack of fuel; action takes the place of laziness; indifference is conquered by zeal and silence cannot prevail.

## Prayer Requests

**Jack Wilson** is at home recovering from surgery.

**Doug Adair** is struggling with back pain. His second opinion still recommended surgery.

**Jerry Richardson** is still undergoing cancer treatments.

**Nancy Richardson** is doing better but still dealing with breathing problems.

**Karen Hallmark** has improved but is still struggling with her health and her eyes.

**Dinah Williams** continues to be homebound due to mobility issues. She had a small fire at her house last week and is staying at the Comfort Inn while repairs are being made.

**Bobbie Gibbons** continues to be limited by balance and breathing issues.

**Tyler Hairston** has cancer.

**Don and Alene Simmons** are both suffering from pain and mobility limitations.

**Dorothy Steadman** is continuing to recover from her recent stroke. She is staying with Hank in Houston.

If you know of someone that needs to be on this list, please tell Darrell (email preferred) and provide updates so names stay on the list as long as needed.

**“praying at all times in the Spirit, with all prayer and supplication. To that end, keep alert with all perseverance, making supplication for all the saints,”**  
(Ephesians 6:18 ESV)

The Oaks West church of Christ is a group of individual Christians who have been added to the Lord’s body through baptism (Acts 2:38, 47; Gal 3:26, 27), and have joined themselves together (Acts 2:42ff) in an effort to do the Lord’s will.

We are not a part of any larger organization - we do not follow any man-made creeds and we do not answer to anyone other than the Lord.

Our standard of faith and practice is the Word of God. We believe in the God of revelation (Eph 3:1-7; 2 Tim 3:16-17) and follow his instructions in an effort to have an ongoing relationship with him (1 John 4:7-11; 5:3).

Our times of study and worship are open to all, and our members are happy to meet with interested individuals or families for study.

### **Evangelist**

Darrell Trammel  
512-756-4493 Office  
Darrell@  
oakswestchurchofChrist.com

### **Elders**

George Gresham  
Jim Johnson  
Darrell Trammel

## **Contact Us**

Address:  
P.O. Box 675  
Burnet, TX 78611

Call:  
(512) 756-4493

E-Mail:  
oakswestchurch@gmail.com

Website:  
oakswestchurchofchrist.com