



The Life of Jesus (85)

The Characteristics of The Last Day (3)



Matthew 24:1-14

#1 Characteristics of the Last Day

4. Love Growing Cold

“... The love of most will grow cold” (Mt 24:12)

One of the characteristics of the last day is that many people’s love will wear out.

The Bible says, “God is love,” which means that everything He does comes out of His character of love.



He created us in His image out of His love to share His love with us so that we can love Him, ourselves, others, and the world He created out of His love. Because God so loved us, He even gave His one and only Son to save us.

#2 Characteristics of the Last Day

4. Love Growing Cold

“[Jesus Christ] gave himself for us to redeem us from all wickedness and to purify for himself a people that are his very own, eager to do what is good” (Ti 2:14)

By paying the ransom for our sins with His precious blood, Jesus restored our relationship with God so that we can recover His image that we've lost because of our sins.

Now, our relationship with God is restored through Jesus Christ, which means that we can feel, experience, and be filled with His love again. This love is what makes us eager to do what is good in God's sight. When God's love is truly poured out in our hearts, we naturally become His people who love Him and love others.

We love not because it's the law to follow as Christians but because God's love overflows from our hearts and motivates us and makes us more eager to love.

#3 Characteristics of the Last Day

4. Love Growing Cold

The apostle Paul describes love as one of fruits of the Holy Spirit.

“The fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, forbearance, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control...” (G1 5:22-23)

And after listing the 9 fruits of the Spirit, Paul added, “Against such things there is no law” (G1 5:23b)

It means that the fruits of the Holy Spirit are not something that we can bear through our efforts because they are actually the natural result of being filled with the Spirit.

When we're filled with the Holy Spirit, we can't help but produce such fruits naturally. The only thing we can do to bear these fruits is just give Him control over our lives.

#4 Characteristics of the Last Day

4. Love Growing Cold

Therefore, **love** is one of the strongest proofs that we have strong faith in God.

“We ought always to thank God for you.. because **your faith is growing more and more**, and the love all of you have for one another is increasing” (2Th 1:3)

Here we clearly see the relationship between faith and love. The more our faith grows, the more the love we have for God and others increases.



But it also means that the more we lose our faith in God, the less we'll love. So, **how much we love is the clearest criterion that shows how much or little faith we have toward God.**

“Dear friends, let us love one another, for **love comes from God**. Everyone who loves has been born of God and knows God. Whoever does not love does not know God, because God is love.” (1Jn 4:7-8)

#5 Characteristics of the Last Day

4. Love Growing Cold

John even said that that's how we check whether we're children of God or children of the devil.

“This is how we know who **the children of God** are and who **the children of the devil** are: Anyone... who does not love their brother and sister is not God's child” (1Jn 3:10)

We should take this verse seriously in our faith because sometimes we can delude ourselves into thinking that we are children of God while actually acting like children of the devil.

So, it's no wonder that one of the characteristics of the last day is the love of most growing cold. **Because many will turn away from their faith in God, their love will wither.** Instead, wickedness will increase.

#6 Characteristics of the Last Day

4. Love Growing Cold

In the last days, people won't love what they're made to love but will love other things.

““But mark this: **There will be terrible times in the last days.** People will be lovers of themselves, lovers of money, boastful, proud, abusive, disobedient to their parents, ungrateful, unholy, **without love**, unforgiving, slanderous, without self-control, brutal, **not lovers of the good**, treacherous, rash, conceited, **lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God** – having a form of godliness but denying its power. Have nothing to do with such people.” (2Tm 3:1-5)

In the last days, **love for the self and worldly things will replace love for God.** That's exactly what John also warns us will happen when we love anything else more than God.

“Do not love the world or anything in the world. If anyone loves the world, love for the Father is not in them.” (1Jn 2:15)

#7 Characteristics of the Last Day

4. Love Growing Cold

This is what happened to the church in Ephesus. In Revelation 2, Jesus rebukes the church because they have lost their love.

“Yet I hold this against you: **You have forsaken the love you had at first.** Consider how far you have fallen! Repent and do the things you did at first...” (Rv 2:4-5)

This is the message we all need to hear as we prepare for the last day. **We should always make every effort not to lose the love we first had toward Jesus** by repenting and returning to God.

That’s how we must prepare for the last day. When we see many Christians turning away from their faith in God and their love growing cold, and wickedness increasing and prevailing in the world all the more, **we should stay spiritually awake and make ourselves ready for Jesus’ return by checking our faith and love.**

#8 Characteristics of the Last Day

4. Love Growing Cold

And we can't do this alone because love is not something that we can bear on our own. But we don't have to worry because if we try to remain in Jesus and the Holy Spirit He has sent us, we'll be naturally filled with God's love.

If we truly belong to Christ, we can be confident that we possess the love from the Spirit that never grows cold.

“[Nothing] will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord” (Rm 8:39)

Here's Paul's beautiful prayer for Christians.

“This is my prayer: that your love may abound more and more in knowledge and depth of insight, so that you may be able to discern what is best and may be pure and blameless for the day of Christ, filled with the fruit of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ - to the glory and praise of God” (Php 1:9-11)

#9 Characteristics of the Last Day

4. Love Growing Cold

We should keep praying that God continues to remain in us so that our love may abound more and so that we can be pure and blameless children of God without losing faith or growing cold in love until Jesus returns.

“But you, dear friends, by building yourselves up in your most holy faith and praying in the Holy Spirit, keep yourselves in God’s love as you wait for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ to bring you to eternal life... To him who is able to keep you from stumbling and to present you before his glorious presence without fault and with great joy – to the only God our Savior be glory, majesty, power and authority, through Jesus Christ our Lord, before all ages, now and forevermore! Amen.” (Jd 1:21-22, 24-25)

If we continue to be devoted to building up ourselves in our faith rather than turning away from it and to keeping ourselves in God’s love without letting it grow cold, Jesus Christ, who is our Lord and Savior to return, will keep us from stumbling to the end.

Memory Verses

“[Jesus Christ] gave himself for us to redeem us from all wickedness and to purify for himself a people that are his very own, eager to do what is good” (Ti 2:14) (1)

“The fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, forbearance, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. Against such things there is no law” (Gl 5:22-23) (1)

“Dear friends, let us love one another, for love comes from God. Everyone who loves has been born of God and knows God. Whoever does not love does not know God, because God is love.” (1Jn 4:7-8) (2)

“Do not love the world or anything in the world. If anyone loves the world, love for the Father is not in them.” (1Jn 2:15) (1)

“...You have forsaken the love you had at first. Consider how far you have fallen! Repent and do the things you did at first...” (Rv 2:4-5) (1)

Memory Verses

“[Nothing] will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord” (Rm 8:39) (1)

“This is my prayer: that your love may abound more and more in knowledge and depth of insight, so that you may be able to discern what is best and may be pure and blameless for the day of Christ...” (Php 1:9-11) (2)

“But you, dear friends, by building yourselves up in your most holy faith and praying in the Holy Spirit, keep yourselves in God’s love as you wait for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ to bring you to eternal life...” (Jd 1:21-22) (2)

Reflection Questions

1) Why do you think love growing cold is one of the characteristics of the last day? What do you think makes it wane most? Where do you see it nowadays?

2) How is your love for God and for others nowadays? What do you love the most nowadays? What are some practical ways you can keep yourself in God’s love this week?