

**A Profile  
of the  
Lukewarm Church Member**

The Lukewarm Church Member:

I. Doesn't Realize Money is One's Stored Time and Talent, and Therefore Actually Is Oneself.

II. Has Investment Goals That Are Not Focused on Maximizing Amounts to Give to Further God's Kingdom. Paul Sturm who writes on SmartMoney.com observed:

A. "Some people invest because they want to win: They thrill to the challenge of finding a stock that will double, the possibility of making enough to retire early or just the satisfaction of looking smarter than the guy in the next cubicle."<sup>1</sup>

B. "But others invest because they don't want to lose. They're ahead of the pack now—living comfortably, saving modestly—and want to make sure they stay that way."<sup>2</sup>

The Lukewarm Church Member:

III. Has An Attitude toward Money That Is Preoccupied with Money in a Way That Focuses on Self-Related Goals rather than Kingdom Goals. The Lukewarm Church Member Is Addicted to the Material World. Philip Slater Finds the Following Types of Addictions to the Material World:

A. "Money addicts" who like to make and accumulate it;

B. "Possession addicts" who like to spend it in visible ways;

C. "Power addicts" who use it in ways to gain influence over others;

D. "Fame addicts" who use it to gain a sense of acceptance with the "right people" or focus on what posterity will think of them; and

E. "Spending addicts" who "travel, entertain, amuse themselves."<sup>3</sup>

The Lukewarm Church Member:

IV. Doesn't Want the Pastor to Know What Members Give to Church

V. Pays Taxes to Governments in Obedience to Caesar, Joins Fraternal Groups in Support of Career Advancement, and Gives through Workplace Solicitation in Support of Career Advancement, But Does Not Make Serious Strategic Commitment to Furthering Jesus' Kingdom Goals

The Extraordinarily Wealthy Lukewarm Church Member:

VI. Wants to Be Appreciated for His Often Limited Donations, Although He Would Deny Those Feelings

VII. Does Not See His Local Church as Worthy of His Serious Money, And Does Not Recognize His Own Potential To Leverage His Giving by Mobilizing Increased Giving Among All the Ordinarily Wealthy Members in the Congregation

BOTH Extraordinarily and Ordinarily Wealthy Lukewarm Church Members:

VIII. Commit Major Donations to Universities, Medical Schools, and to Their Own Family Members Who Are Already Likewise Affluent, In Order To Gain Some Human Sense of Immortality and Continuity, While Not Making Major Donations to Further Specific, Strategic, Intelligent Advances in Jesus' Kingdom

IX. Hold onto Their Money as Long as They Can—That Is, Until They Are Dead—Rather than Making Major Donations to Further Jesus' Kingdom While They Are Alive and Can Maximize the Strategic Nature of Their Giving

The Lukewarm Church Member:

X. Is Immune to Words and Discussion about Money from Others, and seemingly from God's Word, as well as from Prayer That Uses Words

XI. Is More Concerned about Career, Investment Portfolio, Recreation, the Arts, Family, TV, Hobbies, Education and Gracious Living Than about Giving to See the Kingdom of God Go Forward with Measurable Plans

XII. Does Not Realize That Most of Life's Work and Leisure Activities Take Up to 90%, and That, Therefore, The 10% at The Margin Needs to Be Carefully Organized to Maximize The Work of The Kingdom

XIII. Sees Business, Politics, Military, Entertainment, Sports, Family and Education as the Major Realities of Life, with the Kingdom of God Being a Background, Safety Net Add-On

XIV. Confuses Retirement from Employment, with Retirement from Service in the Kingdom, Including Cutting Edge Challenges of the Kingdom of God

XV. Tends Not to See Jesus Christ as an Actual King or Ruler Who Is Working to Establish His Kingdom on Earth through the Voluntary Commitment of His Servants

XVI. Tends to Interpret Jesus Christ in Terms of a Weak Being Fostering Friendly Relationships and Attitudes at Work, Home and Play, Rather Than as a Leader Who Wants All-Out Commitment from His Followers with Their Money to Accomplish Measurable Goals

XVII. Confuses Attendance at Church and Token Commitments to God's Kingdom, with Saving Faith That Results in All-Out Obedience to Jesus Christ

XVIII. Doesn't Bother to Learn, and Is Actively Uninterested in, the Fact That There Would Be An Additional \$131 Billion for Word and Deed Mission If Church Members in the United States Gave An Average of 10%

XIX. Doesn't Bother to Learn, and Is Forcefully Uninterested in, the Fact That This Additional \$131 Billion for Word and Deed Mission, Were Church Members in the United States to Give An Average of 10%, Contrasts with the \$3 Billion That Now Goes for Overseas Mission from the Whole Church in the United States—Which Amount of \$3 Billion for Mission, in Turn, Contrasts with the \$59 billion That Americans Spend on Soft Drinks Each Year

XX. Doesn't Bother to Learn, and Is Massively Uninterested in, the Fact That 10 Million Global Child Deaths Could Be Prevented Each Year, in Jesus' Name, for \$2.5 Billion Each Year, Mostly in Areas Unreached with the Gospel

XXI. Is Not Concerned That the Faith He Claims May, In Fact, Not Be a Saving Faith

The Lukewarm Church Member:

XXII. Since His Toes Are Not Being Stepped On, Does Not Conceptualize, Articulate, Or Mobilize, And in Fact Is Bored With, the \$131 Billion Annual Potential Giving of the Church in Order to Help Others in Jesus' Name

XXIII. Is Highly Inspired by Stories of Young Pilots Risking Their Lives in Response to the Leadership of Army Air Force, at That Time, Lieutenant Colonel James "Jimmy" Doolittle, Who Is Portrayed in Many World War II Movies As Launching a Squadron of 16, Stripped-Down, Land-Based B-25 medium Bombers in a Daring One-Way April 18, 1942 Mission from the Aircraft Carrier Hornet, Too Far from Planned, Safe-Landing Areas, Because of Early Sightings by Vigilant Enemy Fishing Boats—While Not Being Commensurately Inspired, In A Like Manner, to Follow Jesus Christ, with Serious Money or Best Efforts

XXIV. With A Spiritual IQ of Around 50, Like The Autistic Savant Character Played by Dustin Hoffman in the Movie *Rainman*, Who Can Instantaneously Count the Number of Toothpicks Spilled from a Dropped Box—Is Able to Accomplish Astounding Feats in Some Areas, but Does Not Bring That Capacity to Bear on Obeying and Following Jesus

XXV. Responds to This Information by Ignoring It, by Pursuing Maintenance Goals in the Congregation More Rigorously—or if Feeling Pushed—Responds, "So What"?

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June 22, 2001

<sup>1</sup>Paul Sturm; "Sturm's Screens: Dr. Know;" SmartMoney.com; published November 10, 2000; <<http://aol.smartmoney.com/sturmscreen/index.cfm?story=20001110screen>>; 5/8/01 9:27 PM printout.

<sup>2</sup>Ibid.

<sup>3</sup>Philip Slater, *Wealth Addiction* (New York: E. P. Dutton, 1980), pp. 34-35, quoted in John and Sylvia Ronsvalle, *Behind the Stained Glass Windows* (Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Books, 1996), p. 258.