



[Revelation 3:17](#)

(17) You say, 'I am rich; I have acquired wealth and do not need a thing.' But you do not realize that you are wretched, pitiful, poor, blind and naked.

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From the beginning to the end of its history, Israel's great [sin](#) was trying to get the best of both worlds. They professed that [God](#) was their god, but they proved their insincerity by not honoring Him with their attention, their time, their energy. He was low on their list of priorities. God was always on the back burner, so to speak. This is idolatry.

In regard to [Laodiceanism](#), we have to be concerned about the same sin. Laodiceanism is the most subtle form of [idolatry](#). A Laodicean is a Christian who has turned inward. Though he is a part of the church of God, his worship is self-centered. He worships himself and his interests in God's name, while going through the motions of worshipping God. Such is idolatry. What sin is the most distasteful to God? Undoubtedly, it is idolatry! And seeing that sin so skillfully embedded in the Laodicean, He spews them out of His mouth!

Laodiceanism is also the most refined form of worldliness. That worries God. Beginning with an attraction to [the world](#), and building through self-concern that overpowers spiritual concerns, the Laodicean unwittingly worships himself in the place of God. The Laodicean has misjudged what is important in life, and therefore he prioritizes wrongly. He gives his attention to pursuits that are not intrinsically evil, things God desires to bless His people with, but because his priorities are wrong, he merits God's scathing condemnation.

Probably all of us have slumped into Laodiceanism somewhat. Because it is so prevalent in the world, it is almost impossible to avoid. But it can be resisted! We still have time for [repentance](#). Each of us can make a greater effort to study, pray, fast, grow in [love](#) for each other, unselfishly help our neighbors, and follow the prompting of the [Holy Spirit](#) while we have the time and opportunity. We must not allow this opportunity to

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slip away.

— John W. Ritenbaugh

To learn more, see:

[The World, the Church and Laodiceanism](#)

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[Idolatry](#)

[Laodiceanism](#)

[Priorities](#)

[Self Centeredness](#)

[Self Worship](#)

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