

"Never Cheat on a Super Hero"

Lukewarm Lover

By John Cospers

Have you ever watched professional wrestling? Not just watched, but observed the way a show is constructed? No, it is not a pure athletic competition, although the men and women who wrestle professionally, especially at the highest level, are tremendous athletes. But being an athlete is not enough to succeed. The best wrestlers are also actors who can ad lib and carry a storyline. Even more important than that, the best wrestlers are able to create and become a character that the fans either love or hate.

In the 1980's, fans LOVED Hulk Hogan. Hulk was the All-American good guy who urged his fans to say their prayers and take their vitamins. He was larger than life, colorful, and charismatic. In the 1990's, Stone Cold Steve Austin became the iconic anti-hero. He beat up his boss and anyone else who got in his way. He didn't take anything from anybody. He was a loner, a rebel. And the audiences LOVED him.

On the other side of the spectrum, a special breed of wrestlers made and continue to make a living playing "heels," or bad guys. Heels can be strong and powerful like The Big Show. They can be cowardly and conniving like Chris Jericho. They can be arrogant and prideful like "The Model" Rick Martel. They can be anti-American like the Iron Sheik. Or pure evil like Triple H.

The worst place a wrestler can find himself is in the middle. When the fans neither love or hate you, your career is in serious jeopardy. It doesn't matter how technically skilled or athletically gifted you are. If you're not charismatic enough to make the people love you or bad enough to make them hate you, you're doomed.

This is the type of apathy that Christ speaks of in his letter to the church at Laodicea (Revelation 3:14-22). God would rather we be hot (totally in love with him) or cold (totally against him) than apathetic. God can work use a "hot" believer to reach others and serve those in need. And while God doesn't really want anyone to be "cold" toward him, a cold heart is much more easily turned. The lukewarm believer is one with no real joy, no passion, and no appreciation for the gift of grace that has been offered. They can take it or leave it. How sad that anyone, faced with the reality of the gospel, could react with such apathy.

Is your faith as hot as it could be? Stoke the fires by revisiting your favorite gospel. Remember the cross, and remember your baptism. God loved us enough to send his only son to die for us. How can anyone be lukewarm about a gift like that?

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