

Week of July 1-7

WARM-BLOODED BELIEVERS

Scripture Reading: Read Romans chapter 12

Warm-blooded creatures, like mammals and birds, attempt to maintain the inside of their bodies at a constant temperature. They do this by producing their own heat when they are in a cooler environment, and by cooling themselves when they are in a hotter environment. Cold-blooded animals, on the other hand, take on the temperature of their surroundings.

Are you a warm-blooded believer or a cold-blooded one? In other words, do you allow the Holy Spirit within you to dictate how you respond to situations outside of you or do you allow your surroundings to determine what goes on inside you? What's the practical difference? Review Paul's commands in Romans 12 and you can clearly see the difference between being a warm-blooded believer and a cold-blooded one.

WARM-BLOODED

1. *We're transformed by the Word*
2. *We're joyful in hope*
3. *We're patient in affliction*
4. *We're faithful in prayer*
5. *We bless when we're cursed*
6. *We forgive*
7. *We pursue peace*
8. *We leave matters with God*
9. *We love our enemies*

COLD-BLOODED

1. *We're conformed to the world*
2. *We're burdened by despair*
3. *We're impatient with trials*
4. *We're discouraged by delay*
5. *We retaliate when we're cursed*
6. *We get even*
7. *We hold grudges*
8. *We take matters into our own hands*
9. *We hate our enemies*

In each case, being warm-blooded means we choose, by faith and through the power of the indwelling Holy Spirit, to respond to the situations around us with a godly, Christ-honoring response. On the other hand, being cold-blooded, in each case, means we react to our surroundings, allowing others to dictate our reaction. In a defensive and ungodly way, we give power to our surroundings to turn us into a puppet on strings as we seek to protect ourselves and strike back at those who have harmed us.

Action Step & Prayer Focus: Take your "temperature" and compare it to the Word of God. Are you responding or reacting? Allow your answer to determine your prayer.

Take-a-way: *Warm-blooded believers allow the Spirit within rather than circumstances without to dictate their response.*