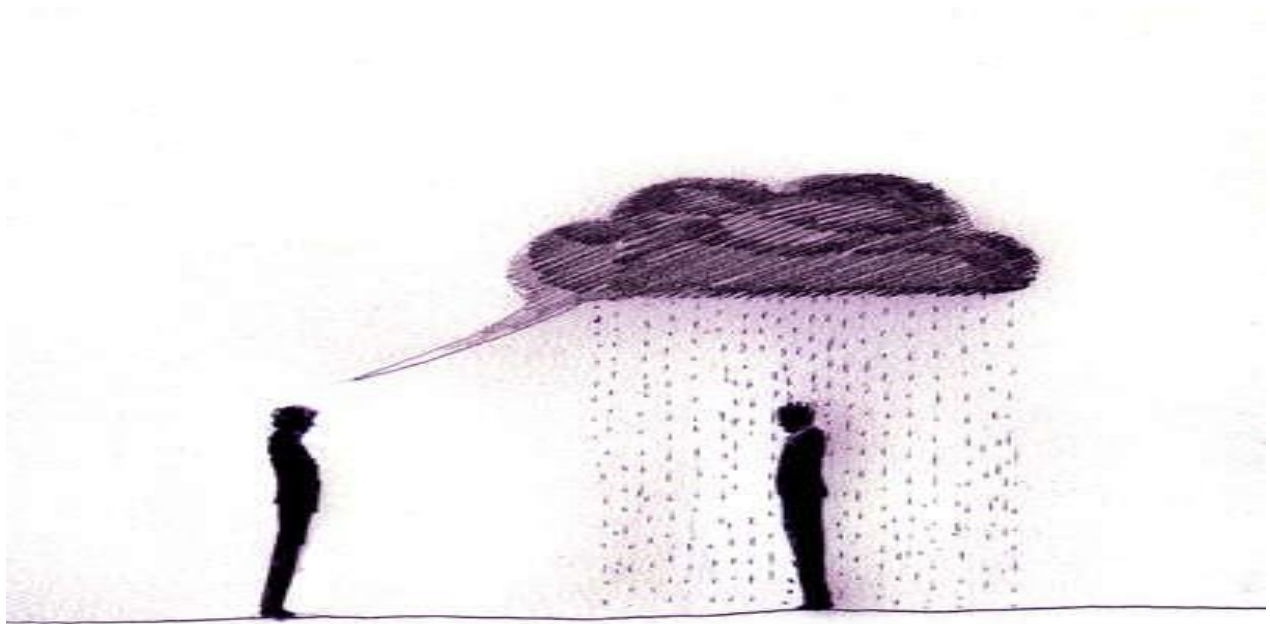


# The Christian's Contribution to Climate Change

By David Lee Burris



## The difference between efficiency and effectiveness.

Efficiency is doing things the right way, while effectiveness is doing the right things. Something is effective if it produces the intended result, whereas it is efficient if it functions with the least use of resources. It is possible to be effective without being efficient and vice versa.

## The difference between conformance and transformance.

Romans 12: 1 & 2 – <sup>1</sup>“I beseech you brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, which is your reasonable service. <sup>2</sup>And **don't be conformed to this world, but be transformed** by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God.” (NKJV)

## **The difference between response and reaction.**

Responding to a situation differs from reaction because it allows room for our highest self to assess a particular situation. Response implies that there is space between an event and our interpretation of an event. That space is all that is necessary to allow in a more intelligent aspect of ourselves to steer the proverbial ship.

Through response we move past our initial emotional response to stimuli, knowing that while emotions are important to pay attention to, they are always transient and can often mislead us if followed blindly. In response we sit with our initial emotions and reserve our next move until we can make it smartly.

## **The difference between a thermometer and a thermostat.**

A thermometer is a device that measures temperature and provides a means of reporting this temperature in a meaningful way.

A thermostat is a device that likewise measures temperature but then performs actions so that the temperature is maintained near a desired level.

A thermometer is primarily **acted upon** and just reports the temperature, while a thermostat's primary function is **to act** upon the measured temperature and adjust it to the desired level.

A thermometer goes up or down in *reaction* to the environment it's in. Hot temp instantly reads hot. Cold air drops the thermometer in lock-step. **No buffer. Its reading is completely in reaction to its surroundings.**

**But a thermostat *responds*.** It sets the climate. It takes the reading from the thermometer and ***manages its reaction***. Through its response, it creates a safe, comfortable environment for everyone around.

Metaphorically comparing human emotion to physical temperature – we can observe that – *when our emotional level goes up, our functioning level goes down.*

## **- THREE TRAITS OF HUMAN THERMOSTATS -**

**1. They are fully aware of their image bearing in microcosm. They both carry and forecast from their own weather system.**

Their composure is not determined by their circumstances, the pressure of the culture, or other's composure.

In Mark 14:3-9, we read a powerful story where a woman poured out an extravagant offering of worship on Jesus and, surprisingly, the disciples stood by criticizing.

But she didn't stop her offering because of the criticism. She didn't stop her offering because it wasn't convenient. She didn't stop her offering because of the culture of that day.

To her (and the same goes for us), God's worth doesn't change depending on circumstances or environments.

**She had her own weather system that wasn't dependent on outward circumstances. Her heart had apparently been touched by Jesus so she responded with extravagant worship.**

**2. They are tenderhearted in response to the needs of others.**

They are both serious of mind and emotionally sensitive.

*It's all about the balance of heart and head.*

The one thing we hear when the disciples spoke up about this woman's extravagant offering is that they thought what she did was a waste; that the alabaster jar could've been sold and the money given to the poor.

What's the point?

This woman is for us an approved example because of her compassionate priority.

If you want to set the temperature for the Lord, you want to have the right condition of loving heart.

**3. They also expose shortcomings by calling people higher.**

The fragrance of the oil filled the entire house.

But what didn't happen was everyone else in the room entering into the amazing moment of worship she just opened up.

Instead, they complained and criticized.

*It exposed the condition of their hearts.*

**They were more concerned with money than the Man.**

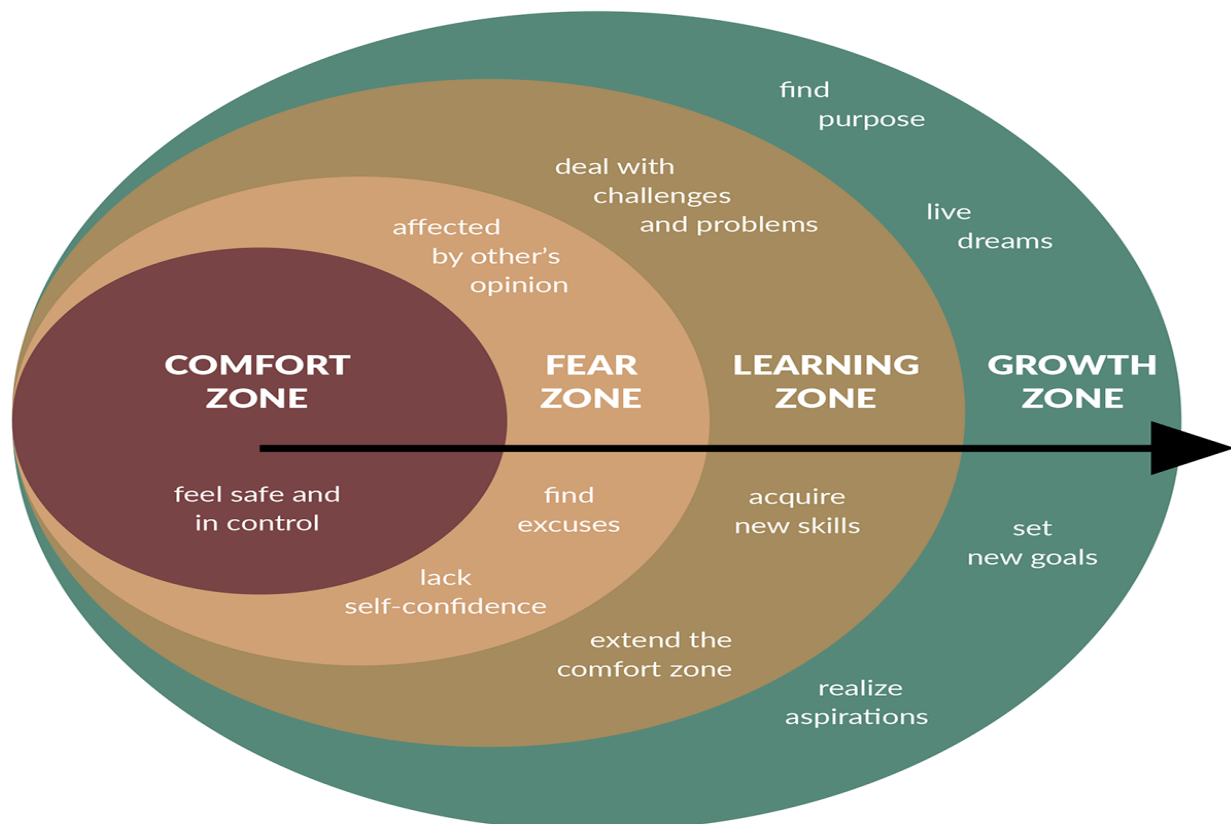
She called them to a higher plane.

**Factoid: We each carry our own weather system.**

**WE UPLIFT BY MAINTAINING THE RIGHT ATMOSPHERE.**

**WE RAISE THE BAR FROM RAISING EXPECTATIONS!**

**WE REACH FRUIT OUTSIDE OUR COMFORT ZONES!**



# The Christian Climate Controlled Environment

**The Problem: Laodicean Life on Lukewarm Autopilot or The Law of Limited Performance.** God's grievance with the Laodicean church was that they had become lukewarm and were no longer affecting the culture around them. They had become thermometers when they should've been thermostats.

Paul seems to have a "thermostat" mentality when writing to the Corinthian church:

*But thanks be to God, who in Christ always leads us in triumphal procession, and through us spreads the fragrance of the knowledge of him everywhere. For we are the aroma of Christ to God among those who are being saved and among those who are perishing, to one a fragrance from death to death, to the other a fragrance from life to life. Who is sufficient for these things? (2 Corinthians 2:14-16 ESV)*

The Greek word for "aroma" was translated to mean a sweet smell, an odor of satisfaction, or incense well pleasing to God. This aroma will always affect its ambience. The imagery is that, as a Christ-follower, we are expected to bring the fragrance of Jesus into every environment in which we find ourselves. We are to have an atmospheric influence on our homes, our workplaces, and our social circles. Paul describes this as a "triumphal procession" in every place where we spread the fragrance of Him.

**The Solution: Second Generation Software SMART Meters.**

*Second Generation Christians Often Need Help Connecting*

- **S**pecific: Who? What? When? Where? Reasons, purpose, benefits.
- **M**easurable: Establish personal criteria to measure your progress.
- **A**ttainable: It has been done in the past – you have read about it.
- **R**ealistic: You must have follow-up. You must be *willing & able* to do it.
- **T**imely: Time frame. **T** can also stand for tangible—A goal is tangible when you can experience it with one of your senses.

## **TWO QUESTIONS THAT PROVIDE CLUES AS TO ONE'S STATUS SPIRITUALLY AS EITHER A THERMOMETER OR A THERMOSTAT**

- 1. Do we allow circumstances of life from which we have no control – the forces of nature – what other people say or what other people do - to routinely ruin our day and distract from our purpose?**
- 2. Generally speaking, do people seem genuinely glad to see us when we show up or instead do they look for good places to hide when we enter the room?**