**The Imitation of Christ by Thomas A. Kempis**

**BOOK ONE:** THOUGHTS HELPFUL IN THE LIFE OF THE SOUL

**Chapter 19: The Practices of a Good Religious**

**Definition and Scriptures:**

**Just men:** A just man is one who has been set right ([justified](https://characterofgod.org/justification-definition/)) in his relationship with God. A right relationship with God can only be established with a correct understanding of His character and an acceptance and reflection of that in his own life. Characterofgod.org

[**Timothy 5:8:** But if anyone does not provide for his relatives, and especially for members of his household, he has denied the faith and is worse than an unbeliever.](https://www.google.com/url?q=https://praywithconfidence.com/lukewarm-christian/%23:~:text%3DLukewarm%2520means%2520neither%2520hot%2520nor,name%252C%2520but%2520not%2520in%2520action.&sa=U&sqi=2&ved=2ahUKEwi7-IPM76X1AhW6lIkEHXHQBC0QFnoECAUQBQ&usg=AOvVaw2O7ANWQ3Q4eE1Rmi-T8-Wn)

[**Matthew 1:19:** And her husband, Joseph, being a just man and unwilling to put her to shame, resolved to divorce her quietly.](https://www.google.com/url?q=https://praywithconfidence.com/lukewarm-christian/%23:~:text%3DLukewarm%2520means%2520neither%2520hot%2520nor,name%252C%2520but%2520not%2520in%2520action.&sa=U&sqi=2&ved=2ahUKEwi7-IPM76X1AhW6lIkEHXHQBC0QFnoECAUQBQ&usg=AOvVaw2O7ANWQ3Q4eE1Rmi-T8-Wn)

**[Genesis 6:9:](https://www.google.com/url?q=https://praywithconfidence.com/lukewarm-christian/%23:~:text%3DLukewarm%2520means%2520neither%2520hot%2520nor,name%252C%2520but%2520not%2520in%2520action.&sa=U&sqi=2&ved=2ahUKEwi7-IPM76X1AhW6lIkEHXHQBC0QFnoECAUQBQ&usg=AOvVaw2O7ANWQ3Q4eE1Rmi-T8-Wn)** [These are the generations of Noah. Noah was a righteous man, blameless in his generation. Noah walked with God.](https://www.google.com/url?q=https://praywithconfidence.com/lukewarm-christian/%23:~:text%3DLukewarm%2520means%2520neither%2520hot%2520nor,name%252C%2520but%2520not%2520in%2520action.&sa=U&sqi=2&ved=2ahUKEwi7-IPM76X1AhW6lIkEHXHQBC0QFnoECAUQBQ&usg=AOvVaw2O7ANWQ3Q4eE1Rmi-T8-Wn)

**Proverbs 20:7:** The righteous who walks in his integrity— blessed are his children after him!

**Quote:**

"Just men depend on the grace of God rather than on their own wisdom in keeping their resolutions. In Him they confide every undertaking, for man, indeed, proposes but God disposes, and God's way is not man's.”

**Discussion:**

Learning is about hearing. Religion is about doing. How do we know when a person is actually hearing and doing the will of God?

Think about a fruit tree. A tree grows leaves and branches in an effort to produce fruit. Our thinking can be compared to a fruit tree. We produce ideas similarly as the leaves and branches on a tree, but God prunes our ideas so that we live in accordance to his ways. How do we come up with ideas and how does God direct our ideas?