

To the Church

SERMON SERIES FROM REVELATION 2-3

EPHESUS: THE CENTRALITY OF LOVE

***A HEALTHY CHURCH
THAT PRIORITIZES LOVE
FOR JESUS WILL
PRIORITIZE JESUS' LOVE
FOR OTHERS***



***TO THE ANGEL OF THE CHURCH IN EPHESUS WRITE:
THESE ARE THE WORDS OF HIM WHO HOLDS THE SEVEN
STARS IN HIS RIGHT HAND AND WALKS AMONG THE
SEVEN GOLDEN LAMPSTANDS.
REVELATION 2:1***

***I KNOW YOUR DEEDS, YOUR HARD WORK AND YOUR PERSEVERANCE. I KNOW THAT YOU CANNOT TOLERATE WICKED PEOPLE, THAT YOU HAVE TESTED THOSE WHO CLAIM TO BE APOSTLES BUT ARE NOT AND HAVE FOUND THEM FALSE.
REVELATION 2:2***

***YOU HAVE PERSEVERED AND HAVE ENDURED
HARDSHIPS FOR MY NAME AND HAVE NOT
GROWN WEARY.
REVELATIONS 2:3***

***YET I HOLD THIS AGAINST YOU: YOU HAVE
FORSAKEN THE LOVE YOU HAD AT FIRST.
REVELATION 2:4***

**CONSIDER HOW FAR YOU HAVE FALLEN! REPENT AND DO THE THINGS YOU DID AT FIRST. IF YOU DO NOT REPENT, I WILL COME TO YOU AND REMOVE YOUR LAMPSTAND FROM ITS PLACE.
REVELATION 2:5**

***BUT YOU HAVE THIS IN YOUR FAVOR: YOU HATE
THE PRACTISES OF THE NICOLAITINS, WHICH I
ALSO HATE.
REVELATION 2:6***

**WHOEVER HAS EARS, LET THEM HEAR WHAT THE SPIRIT SAYS
TO THE CHURCHES. TO THE ONE WHO IS VICTORIOUS, I WILL
GIVE THE RIGHT TO EAT FROM THE TREE OF LIFE, WHICH IS IN
THE PARADISE OF GOD.
REVELATIONS 2:7**

CHARACTERISTICS OF THE CHURCHES

1. They follow a distinct pattern

Commendation

Criticism

Correction

Challenge

2. These were 7 specific historical churches.

3. These churches located in and around Ephesus, the capital city



CHARACTERISTICS OF CHURCHES

4. Located on a busy travel route

5. These 7 churches DO NOT represent historical dispensations of church history

6. Each church contains a message that is applicable for all churches everywhere at every time

'In addressing these 7 churches, Jesus is addressing all the churches. It turns out the 7 churches of Asia Minor embody every major issue with which the church has struggled in every age in every cultural setting.' (Darrel Johnson)



JESUS IS CHARACTERIZED BY HIS PROTECTION

**JESUS CARES
JESUS IS THERE**



CHRIST COMMENDS THE CHURCH FOR ITS PURITY

REVELATION 2:2-3,6

"I KNOW"...

YOUR DEEDS

YOUR DEDICATION

YOUR DOCTRINE



THE CHURCH IS CRITICIZED FOR ITS PASSION

REVELATION 2:4

JESUS IS HONEST WITH HIS PEOPLE

JESUS IS PASSIONATELY JEALOUS OF HIS PEOPLE



JESUS CORRECTS HIS CHURCH WITH A PLAN

REVELATION 2:5

REMEMBER

REPENT

RETURN



THE CHURCH IS CHALLENGED WITH A PROMISE

REVELATION 2:7

YOU CONQUOR WITH PERSEVERANCE

YOUR VICTORY IS A PARTICIPATION IN HIS VICTORY

YOU WILL CELEBRATE IN PARADISE



Never be lacking in zeal,
but keep your spiritual fervor,
serving the Lord.

Romans 12:11