

**Where's the Love?
Christ's Message to Ephesus
Revelation 2:1-7**

Introduction: The seven churches in Revelation 2-3 represent churches and individuals with various spiritual needs. The church at Ephesus had lost its _____ in serving Christ.

I. The City

Ephesus was a great commerce center. The Temple of Diana was a place of worship that included various forms of sexual perversion and self-mutilation.

II. The Church

The church was founded by _____ and its pastors included Timothy and the apostle John. It had been established for over forty years.

III. The Correspondent 2:1

The One speaking is the sovereign, glorified Christ. The key for any church is having Christ in the _____ of it.

IV. The Commendation 2:2-3

1. They were _____ (“your labor”)

2. They were _____ 2:2-3

3. They were _____ 2:2, 6

1) They were _____ pure

2) They were _____ pure Acts 20:28-30; 1 John 4:1; 1 Thess 5:21-22

V. The Complaint 2:4

The church suffered from _____ trouble. Everything had become too _____ for them.

WHENEVER YOU START SERVING CHRIST APART FROM A HEART-FELT LOVE FOR HIM, YOU HAVE LOST YOUR FIRST LOVE.

VI. The Counsel 2:5

1. _____

How can I discern whether or not I've lost my first love?

- Do you long to spend time _____ with God?
- Has your worship become dull & _____?
- Has your service for God become _____?
- Do you serve God for approval of _____ rather than to _____ God?
- Do you find yourself _____?
- Are you easily _____ & _____ of others?
- Do you find it difficult to love others _____?

2. _____ James 4:8

Repentance = a change of mind that leads to a change of _____ and _____

3. _____ (“do the first works”)

VII. The Caution 2:5

A cold, loveless church becomes a _____ church (the light goes out).

VIII. The Challenge 2:7

1. _____ to what God says

2. _____ what God promises 1 John 5:4-5

An overcomer is the person who has come to God by faith that Jesus Christ is the Son of God who came to be the _____.

He overcomes sin, the flesh and this world.

The promise is _____.

Are you in love with Christ? He is in love with YOU (Ephesians 5:25)!

Study Questions:

1. If Jesus were to write a letter to the 21st Century Church in America...
 - What areas would they be commended?
 - What areas would they be confronted?
2. How does First Baptist in Lowell measure up to the areas in Revelation 2:2-3?
3. What steps can a church take to prevent it from losing its first love?
4. What steps can a Christian take to prevent him/her from losing his/her first love?
5. Read the account of Paul's missionary ministry in Ephesus in Acts 19:1-20. What appeals to you about the early church in Ephesus?

October 2024

Week 1 Starting October 7	Week 2 Starting October 14	Week 3 Starting October 21	Week 4 Starting October 28
Day 1: John 17	Day 1: John 21	Day 1: Matthew 6	Day 1: Matthew 10
Day 2: John 18	Day 2: Matthew 1-2	Day 2: Matthew 7	Day 2: Matthew 11
Day 3: John 19	Day 3: Matthew 3-4	Day 3: Matthew 8	Day 3: Matthew 12
Day 4: John 20	Day 4: Matthew 5	Day 4: Matthew 9	Day 4: Matthew 13
Day 5: John 2:13-22	Day 5: John 3:16-21	Day 5: John 3:22-36	Day 5: John 4:1-26

⁴ For he chose us in him before the creation of the world to be holy and blameless in his sight. In love

⁵ he predestined us for adoption to sonship through Jesus Christ, in accordance with his pleasure and will—

⁶ to the praise of his glorious grace, which he has freely given us in the One he loves.