

## Study 2: The Loveless Church Revelation 2:1-7

**RECAP SESSION 1:** Revelation 1:9-20 is a passage from the Bible. It describes John's vision of Jesus Christ on the island of Patmos. Jesus places his right hand on John and tells him not to be afraid. He says that he is the first and the last, the living One, and that he was dead but is now alive forevermore. Jesus also tells John to write down the things he has seen, the things which are, and the things which will take place after these things. Finally, Jesus explains that the seven stars in his right hand are the angels of the seven churches, and the seven lampstands are the seven churches.

As Jesus moves among his churches in Revelation 2 -3, he looks carefully at each group of Christians and evaluates what they are doing in his name. In the church at Ephesus, Jesus finds a lot to praise, but his heart is broken by one glaring absence.

**Read:** Revelation 2:1-7

### Discussion Questions:

- 1.) If you had just relocated to Ephesus and visited the Ephesian church, what would impress you about this group of believers (v2-3)?

---

---

---

- 2.) How does it make you feel to hear Jesus say to you, "I know your deeds"?

---

---

---

What would Jesus commend in the church you attend?

---

---

---

- 3.) How would you or the leaders of your church test people who came into your assembly claiming to have spiritual authority?

---

---

---

What would you do if they were shown to be false teachers?

---

---

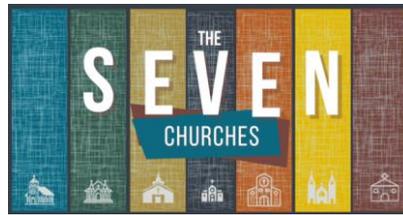
---

- 4.) The Ephesian church was full of hard-working, dedicated believers, but Jesus looked deeper, what is one thing he found that bothered him (v4)?

---

---

---



Study 2:  
The Loveless Church  
Revelation 2:1-7

Why is this “first love” so crucial for an effective ministry?

---

---

---

5.) As you look at your own ministry to others and your activity in Jesus’ name, honestly evaluate why you do it. Is it because you *ought* to, because someone else *has* to, because you were *asked* to – or is there another motive? Explain.

---

---

---

6.) Jesus tells the Ephesian church to take steps. What would each involve for a church body (v.5)?

*Consider:*

*Repent:*

*Do:*

---

---

---

7.) What warning does Jesus give if they refuse to repent, and what might that judgement look like (v5)?

---

---

---

8.) What does Jesus promise to “the one who is victorious,” that is the one who perseveres in faith (v7)?

---

---

---

9.) What can you do to keep the fire of devotion and love for Jesus from fading overtime? Write some specific steps drawn from this passage and ask the group to help you be accountable for taking those steps.

---

---

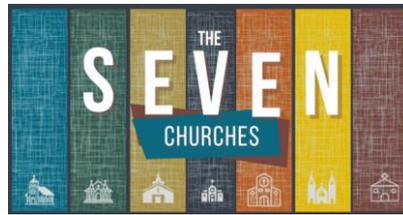
---

What can you do to see love for Jesus rekindled in your church?

---

---

---



## Study 2: The Loveless Church Revelation 2:1-7

**RESPOND:** Ask Jesus to reignite the flame of love for him in your heart. Let the Holy Spirit search out any areas of deadness, coldness, or disobedience. Stay in Jesus' presence until your heart is stirred to new depths of love and devotion to him.

**NOW OR LATER:** Each of these letters end with a promise to "the one who is victorious" or the one who overcomes. Read 1 John 5:4-5. How does John describe the one who overcomes the world?

When Jesus makes a promise to the person who overcomes, is he talking more about something we can earn by our effort or something we receive by faith from God – or some combination of our perseverance and God's grace?