

LIFE GROUP notes

11 June



Break the ice

Write down what God is saying to you in today's message:

TOPIC: 7 Churches of Revelation – week 4



Let's hear your story

1. Tell of a time when you had to explain to a friend or family member what it means to love Jesus with all your heart, mind, and strength?
2. What does Revelation 2:2 tell us about Jesus' knowledge of the church? **(He knows their works, their toil, and their patient endurance...).**
3. What does v.2 tell us about the church' doctrine? **(They have tested those who call themselves apostles and are not, and found them to be false.).**
4. What does v.3 tell us about the church? **(They are enduring patiently, and bearing up for Jesus' name's sake, and have not grown weary.).**



Let's go deeper

5. What does Jesus have against the church in v.4? **(I have this against you, that you have abandoned the love you had at first.).**
6. What did Jesus tell the church to do in v.5? **(Remember therefore from where you have fallen; repent and do the works you did at first)**
7. What does the church hate, that Jesus also hates in v.6? **(Yet this you have; you hate the works of the Nicolaitans, which I also hate.).**
8. What will Jesus give to the one who conquers according to v.7? **(To the one who conquers I will grant to eat of the tree of life, which is in the paradise of God.).**



Let's apply this

9. Revelation 2:5; Remember therefore from where you have fallen; **repent**, and **do the works you did at first.**

Remember: How you used to love the Lord, and others.

Repent: It means to change your direction, to go a different way.

Do the works you did at first:

- Remember how you used to study God's Word?
- Remember how you used to pray passionately?
- Remember the joy you had meeting other believers?
- Remember the excitement to tell others about Jesus?

SUMMARY:

7 Churches of Revelation: Week 4 (The letter to the church at Ephesus).

Read: Revelation 2:1 – 7

- Are you still in love with Jesus, and do you love His people?
- Do you serve Jesus out of duty or family tradition, or out of true love?

Jesus starts with encouragements, and then a big criticism to the church at Ephesus:

v.2; The church served faithfully

The people worked hard; volunteered their hours; day after day, week after week, month after month, year after year, as people are coming for training from around the region. Leaders needed to be housed and fed, and the church served faithfully. Jesus says, "I don't have any criticism of your service." Because of their service, this became the focus for missionary activity in the entire region.

v.2; The church had sound doctrine

They do not have false doctrine. They are not believing new myths. They are not chasing misquoted Scripture and false teaching, and Jesus says, "there are those who say they are false apostles, and they have spiritual authority, and He says, "you test everything by the Scriptures, and you've rejected all the false teachers."

v.3; The church endured hardship

This was a difficult place to minister, spiritual opposition of all sorts and kinds. There were many gods that were worshiped. Prostitution was legalized. The Temple of Artemis, also known as the Temple of Diana, was a Greek temple dedicated to an ancient, goddess Artemis (also identified with Diana, a Roman goddess). This temple was declared to be one of the seven great wonders of the world.

v.6; The church hated heretics

Heretics are those who are intentionally leading people astray. The Bible uses the language of a believer is like a sheep, and a leader is like a shepherd who loves and cares for the sheep, and a wolf is dangerous and comes to lead them astray.

v.4; The church abandoned the love they had at first

Jesus was not criticizing them because they were not generous givers, or faithful servants, or patient endurers, or overcomers. The church is dutiful and faithful, but He says; I know your heart, and it has gotten a little hard, and it is not very loving. When the church started, there was a lot of love for each other, for the leaders, for unbelievers, and for the Lord. And now they are just sort of stopped being very loving, being patient, and kind, and gracious, and understanding.

v.5; Jesus wants the church to; **remember** (how they used to love the Lord and others); **repent** (change their mind and direction); **do the works they did at first.**