



# Digging Deeper

*Putting your faith in ACTION!*

This morning let's not be just 'hearers' of the Word, but 'doers of the word. Take some time at lunch, dinner, or bedtime to DIG DEEPER into the today's lesson and story. Take a few moments to apply today's lesson to our lives.

## **ASK MYSELF...challenging questions for the heart:**

1. If you have a regular performance review at work, how do you feel when preparing for your review? What (if anything) bears similarity in this portion of scripture?
2. Why is important to read about these 7 churches with an 'if the shoe fits...' state of mind?
3. Why do you think it was so important for Christ to highlight the issue of first love with the church of Ephesus?
4. If you were to honestly assess your own walk with Christ, what are the areas you feel you are doing well in? What are the areas that need to be strengthened?
5. Take some time to pray over today's message.

## **FOR THE FAMILY...challenging questions for family life:**

1. While the passage itself might go right over the heads of smaller children, focus on the concepts of what it means to truly love God and others.
2. Discuss the positive traits of the church of Ephesus together. How can these be applied to your daily lives (at school, at work, etc.)
3. Take some time pray together.



## **Today's Service**

September 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2017

**Series: Seven**

**Part 1: Ephesus**

Pastor Brian Stanley



**Revelation 1:9-11** (NLT) <sup>9</sup>I, John, am your brother and your partner in suffering and in God's Kingdom and in the patient endurance to which Jesus calls us. I was exiled to the island of Patmos for preaching the word of God and for my testimony about Jesus. <sup>10</sup>It was the Lord's Day, and I was worshiping in the Spirit. Suddenly, I heard behind me a loud voice like a trumpet blast. <sup>11</sup>It said, "Write in a book everything you see, and send it to the seven churches in the cities of Ephesus, Smyrna, Pergamum, Thyatira, Sardis, Philadelphia, and Laodicea."

## The Golden Rule of Interpretation

*"When the plain sense of scripture makes common sense, seek no other sense; therefore, take every word at its primary, ordinary, usual, literal meaning unless the facts of the immediate context, studies in the light of related passages and axiomatic and fundamental truths indicates clearly otherwise." ~ Dr. David L Cooper ~*

Jesus cares about the \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ of His Church.

**Revelation 2:1-7** (NLT) *The Message to the Church in Ephesus:* <sup>1</sup> "Write this letter to the angel of the church in Ephesus. This is the message from the one who holds the seven stars in his right hand, the one who walks among the seven gold lampstands: <sup>2</sup> "I know all the things you do. I have seen your hard work and your patient endurance. I know you don't tolerate evil people. You have examined the claims of those who say they are apostles but are not. You have discovered they are liars. <sup>3</sup> You have patiently suffered for me without quitting. <sup>4</sup> "But I have this complaint against you. You don't love me or each other as you did at first! <sup>5</sup> Look how far you have fallen! Turn back to me and do the works you did at first. If you don't repent, I will come and remove your lampstand from its place among the churches. <sup>6</sup> But this is in your favor: You hate the evil deeds of the Nicolaitans, just as I do. <sup>7</sup> "Anyone with ears to hear must listen to the Spirit and understand what he is saying to the churches. To everyone who is victorious I will give fruit from the tree of life in the paradise of God.

The problem with the church in Ephesus is that it had become \_\_\_\_\_.

## Regarding The Nicolaitans

**Acts 15:28** (NLT) <sup>28</sup> "For it seemed good to the Holy Spirit and to us to lay no greater burden on you than these few requirements: <sup>29</sup> You must abstain from eating food offered to idols, from consuming blood or the meat of strangled animals, and from sexual immorality. If you do this, you will do well. Farewell."

**Galatians 5:13** (NLT) <sup>13</sup> For you have been called to live in freedom, my brothers and sisters. But don't use your freedom to satisfy your sinful nature. Instead, use your freedom to serve one another in love.

*The only way to recognize false teaching is to be intimately familiar with truth through the diligent study of the Word of God.*

Our \_\_\_\_\_ for God and love for one another is \_\_\_\_\_.

**John 13:35** (NLT) <sup>35</sup> Your love for one another will prove to the world that you are my disciples."

**1 Corinthians 13:1-3** (NLT) <sup>1</sup> If I could speak all the languages of earth and of angels, but didn't love others, I would only be a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal. <sup>2</sup> If I had the gift of prophecy, and if I understood all of God's secret plans and possessed all knowledge, and if I had such faith that I could move mountains, but didn't love others, I would be nothing. <sup>3</sup> If I gave everything I have to the poor and even sacrificed my body, I could boast about it; but if I didn't love others, I would have gained nothing.

If we \_\_\_\_\_ to love God and others, \_\_\_\_\_ else we do will \_\_\_\_\_. We must be careful that religious \_\_\_\_\_ does not replace genuine \_\_\_\_\_.

