

7 LETTERS

TO THE CHURCH



If Jesus were to write a letter to our church, what would it say?

John to the seven churches that are in Asia...

Revelation 1v4 (ESV)

I was in the Spirit on the Lord's day, and I heard behind me a loud voice like a trumpet saying, "Write what you see in a book and send it to the seven churches, to Ephesus and to Smyrna and to Pergamum and to Thyatira and to Sardis and to Philadelphia and to Laodicea."

Revelation 1v10-11 (ESV)

To the angel of the church in Ephesus write: The words of him who holds the seven stars in his right hand, who walks among the seven golden lampstands.

I know your works, your toil and your patient endurance, and how you cannot bear with those who are evil, but have tested those who call themselves apostles and are not, and found them to be false. I know you are enduring patiently and bearing up for my name's sake, and you have not grown weary.

But I have this against you, that you have abandoned the love you had at first. Remember therefore from where you have fallen; repent, and do the works you did at first. If not, I will come to you and remove your lampstand from its place, unless you repent. Yet this you have: you hate the works of the Nicolaitans, which I also hate.

He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches. To the one who conquers I will grant to eat of the tree of life, which is in the paradise of God.

Revelation 2v1-7 (ESV)

The Ephesian church was commended for their faithfulness to sound doctrine and good deeds.

When your first love is lost (Jesus himself):

your inward motivation (love and devotion to God) becomes distorted,

AND your outward tone and spirit (love and grace toward people) goes missing.

It is possible to stand for the truth of Jesus while not actually loving the person of Jesus which is what makes genuine love for others possible.

3-fold pathway to find your way back to your first love:

Remember

Repent

Do

Love/Affections Inventory

What things cultivate your love and affection for Jesus?

What things steal your love and affection away from Jesus?