

## I. Jesus Speaks as the Sovereign King (1)

- A. He expects His messengers to speak what He speaks - “To the angel of the church in Ephesus write...”
- B. He expects all people to acknowledge His authority - “The words of Him who holds the seven stars in his right hand...”
- C. He expects His people to honor His presence - “...who walks among the seven golden lampstands.”

## II. Jesus Affirms as the Watchful Shepherd (2-3, 6)

- A. They were industrious workers (2a) - “I know your works, your toil and your patient endurance...”
- B. They were doctrinally discerning (2b) - “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.”
- C. They were fortified in their faithfulness (3) - “I know you are enduring patiently and bearing up for My name’s sake, and you have not grown weary.”
- D. They were clear in where they stood (6) - “...you hate the works of the Nicolaitans, which I also hate.”

**Ephesus was a stout, actively serving, courageous, loyal church positionally aligned with the mission of Jesus Christ**

## III. Jesus Rebukes as the Discerning Lord (4-5)

- A. Something which must be addressed by Christ (4) - “But I have this against you, that you have abandoned the love you had at first.”
- B. Something which must be acknowledged by us (5a) - “Remember therefore from where you have fallen...”
- C. Something which must be activated (5b) - “...repent, and do the works you did at first.”
- D. Something which must be avoided (5c) - “If not, I will come to you and remove your lampstand from its place, unless you repent.”

## IV. Jesus Motivates as the Welcoming Warrior (7)

- A. A constant reality - “He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches.” **Some will hear, some won’t**
- B. A valid possibility - “To the one who conquers...”
- C. An unstoppable destiny - “...I will grant to eat of the tree of life which is in the paradise of God.”