

Dear Church...: Week 1

June 7, 2020

Revelation 2:1-7

Warming Up

1. Has anyone ever complimented you for a good quality trait or action and then confronted you with a weakness at the same time? Share with the group. What was it all about? How did you respond?

Knowing the Gospel...

2. Ephesus had quite a history of having very strong apostles and leaders ministering to them at different times in their history. What Biblical leaders had a significant role in the formation of this church? (Acts 18:24-28, 19:1, 10, 20:31, 1 Tim. 1:3). This no doubt contributed to their qualities that Jesus commended them for. But what warning can we take from their history and from Jesus' condemnation of them as a church?

3. The Ephesian church apparently was faithful in rooting out false teachers. How do you know if someone's teaching is true to Scripture or not? What are some ways to evaluate the truth of a sermon, teaching, lessons that claim to be from God? (Acts 17:10-12, 1 John 4:1-3, 2 Cor. 11:3-5, 12-15, Acts 20:28-30).

Living the Gospel...

4. The Ephesian church had a commendable distaste for the Nicolaitans (v.6) (probably people who encouraged a license to live however you want, even as a Christian). Have you ever encountered this mentality among professing Christians (that our freedom in Christ means we can live as we want)? What are some appropriate ways to address this line of thinking?

5. The Ephesians lost the intensity of the love they had at first (v.4). What are some ways that love for God and love for others can be compromised in your life? What tends to dull your affections for God and others?

6. The Ephesian church was doing a lot of things right. They dealt with false teaching, they endured through trials and stood for the name of Christ. They were resilient in a really tough city to be Christian. What do Jesus' harsh words for them in verse 5 tell us about His heart for His church? His heart for individuals?

Telling the Gospel...

8. How would you explain to a non-believer the concept of repentance and the need for it?

9. Consider this question and discuss as a group: If a non-believer asked you, "If God CAN stop the pandemic, why DOESN'T he?" what would you say?

Next Week: Revelation 2:8-11