

“HAVE YOU LEFT YOUR FIRST LOVE?”

Revelation 2:1-7

The church at Ephesus is a good example of many Baptist churches today. It had a great start and was known for its genuine love for God, for the saints, and for the lost. Over about 30 years it changed dramatically—so much so that Jesus said, “you have left your first love.” (Can we really love the Son and not the saints and...not the sinner?)

Consider (1) the **CONDITION** of the church and (2) the **CORRECTION** for the church.

- I. The **CONDITION OF THE CHURCH** (vv.2-4,6)
 - A. They were **LIVELY IN THEIR CHRISTIAN DEEDS** (v.2a “I know your deeds and your toil and perseverance”)
 - B. They were **LABLED FOR THEIR CHRISTIAN DISCIPLINE** (v. 2b “and that you cannot tolerate evil men...”)
 - C. They were **LOYAL IN THEIR CHRISTIAN DOCTRINE** (v. 2c “...and you put to the test those who call themselves apostles and they are not, and you found them to be false.”)
 - D. They were **LONG ON THEIR CHRISTIAN DETERMINATION** (v. 3 “you have perseverance and have endured for My name’s sake and have not grown weary.”)
 - E. They were **LACKING IN CHRISTIAN LOVE** (v.4 “But I have this against you, that you have left your first love.”) **IT IS FOCUSED.**
 1. Christian love is focused on the **SAVIOR**. (Matthew 22:37)
 2. Christian love is focused on the **SAINTS** (John 13:34-35)
 3. Christian love is focused on the **SINNER** (Matthew 11:19)
- II. The **CORRECTION FOR THE CHURCH** (v. 5)
 - A. They were instructed to **REMEMBER** (v. 5a “Therefore remember from where you have fallen...”)
 - B. They were instructed to **REPENT** (v. 5b “and repent...”) **OF WHAT SHOULD THE CHURCH REPENT?**
 1. Repent of **PRAYERLESSNESS**
 2. Repent of **FAITHLESSNESS**
 3. Repent of **POWERLESSNESS**
 4. Repent of **SELFISHNESS**
 5. Repent of **SINFULNESS**
 - C. They were instructed to **RETURN** (v. 5c “and do the deeds you did at first...”) - Return to:
 1. The **Great Confession** (Matthew 16:16)
 2. The **Great Commandment** (Matthew 22:37-38)
 3. The **Great Commission** (Matthew 28:18-20)

Jesus said to the church at Ephesus, “repent or else I am coming to you and **WILL REMOVE YOUR LAMPSTAND** (church) **OUT OF ITS PLACE**” (v. 5d).