

Lost Love Revelation 2:1-7

Purpose: To prompt us to examine our true motives for following and serving Jesus.

Group Discussion: What is something you used to be absolutely obsessed with when you were younger, but you completely lost interest in today? (i.e., a music group, a fashion trend, a hobby)

1. (Verse 1) What part of Jesus' introduction stands out to you, and why?
2. (Verse 2) Jesus says they "tested" those who claimed to be apostles. What does healthy discernment look like in our own church today, especially when someone presents new teaching?
3. (Verses 2-3) Which of the Ephesian church's strengths do you relate to most? Why?
4. (Verse 4) Despite all their strengths, Jesus says they "*abandoned the love*" they had at first. Do you think this refers to love for Christ, love for one another, or both? Why?

How can a church (or a person) protect themselves from slow spiritual drift (i.e. a slow, subtle movement away from God)?

5. (Verse 4) Have you ever experienced a "*first love*" fading in an area of your faith (i.e. your devotional life, your excitement for church, your generosity, etc.)? What did that look like?
6. (Verse 5) Jesus's remedy is to "remember (consider), repent, and return to the things you did at first." Why do you think He lists these in this specific order? What would each step look like in your own life?
7. (Verse 5) The warning is that an unrepentant church risks losing its "lampstand" (or its function as a light). What does losing your 'light' look like for a church or a Christian today?
8. (Verse 6) What does hating what Jesus hates (the Nicolaitans' practices) teach us about aligning our convictions with God's priorities?
9. (Verse 7) The promised reward (access to the tree of life in paradise) echoes the Garden of Eden. Why do you think Jesus chose this specific image to close the letter? What does it suggest about the relationship being restored?