

What Jesus wants for his church - love

Revelation 2:1-7

Slides from John Percival's sermon at the
morning service, Sunday 18th February 2024



- What was the name of the church?
- How full was the building?
- Did anyone welcome you personally?
- Was your seat comfortable?
- What musical instruments were played?
- How long was the sermon?
- On a scale of 1-10 how good was the preacher?
- How would you describe the coffee?
- Did the service make you glad to be a Christian?

Seven Churches of Revelation

— Chapters 2-3 —

- ① Ephesus
- ② Smyrna
- ③ Pergamos
- ④ Thyatira
- ⑤ Sardis
- ⑥ Philadelphia
- ⑦ Laodicea

Island of Patmos: where John received the vision



1. A zeal for truth (v1-3, v6)

Jesus commends

➤ Their deeds

Revelation 1v2

I know your deeds, your hard work and your perseverance.

Revelation 1v3

You have persevered and have endured hardships for my name, and have not grown weary.

1. A zeal for truth (v1-3, v6)

Jesus commends

- Their deeds
- Their discernment

Revelation 1v2

I know that you cannot tolerate wicked people, that you have tested those who claim to be apostles but are not, and have found them false.

Acts 20v29-31

²⁹ I know that after I leave, savage wolves will come in among you and will not spare the flock. ³⁰ Even from your own number men will arise and distort the truth in order to draw away disciples after them.

³¹ So be on your guard! Remember that for three years I never stopped warning each of you night and day with tears.

2. A lack of love (v4)

Revelation 1v4

Yet I hold this against you: You have forsaken the love you had at first.

1 John 4v10-11

¹⁰ This is love: not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins. ¹¹ Dear friends, since God so loved us, we also ought to love one another.

Jeremiah 2v2

I remember the devotion of your youth,
how as a bride you loved me
and followed me through the wilderness,
through a land not sown.

Hosea 2v14-15

¹⁴ Therefore I am now going to allure her;
I will lead her into the wilderness
and speak tenderly to her.

¹⁵ There I will give her back her vineyards,
and will make the Valley of Achor a door of hope.
There she will respond as in the days of her youth,
as in the day she came up out of Egypt.

WARNING

**WE WILL NOT
TOLERATE PHYSICAL
OR VERBAL
ABUSE TOWARDS
OUR STAFF**

3. A plan for action (v5, 7)

v5 - Consider how far you have fallen! Repent and do the things you did at first.

3. A plan for action (v5, 7)

- Remember

3. A plan for action (v5, 7)

- Remember
- Repent



3. A plan for action (v5, 7)

- Remember
- Repent
- Restart



“The cross is the blazing fire at which the flame of our love is kindled, but we have to get near enough for its sparks to fall on us.”

John Stott



Revelation 1v5

If you do not repent, I will come to you and remove your lampstand from its place.

“A church where love ceases can no longer function properly as a local expression of Christ’s body. This is one of the offenses for which a lampstand can be moved from its place, through which a church can ultimately cease to exist as a church. Some churches die from lack of outreach, lack of planning for the rising generation, or lack of courtesy to visitors; some churches, like the church in Ephesus, may risk killing themselves off simply by how they treat others.”

Craig Keener

Revelation 1v7

Whoever has ears, let them hear what the Spirit says to the churches. To the one who is victorious, I will give the right to eat from the tree of life, which is in the paradise of God.

“The cross is the blazing fire at which the flame of our love is kindled, but we have to get near enough for its sparks to fall on us.”

