



what's
LOVE
got to do with it?
Revelation 2:1-7

Big Idea: In the church dedication to truth must meet determination to love.

Introduction

- Today's text is the first of seven letters that Christ writes to the seven churches.
- In the course of these seven letters, Jesus gives us a powerful picture of what the church is supposed to be about.
- There is a 7-part pattern to each of these seven letters: (1) Command to write, (2) Characterization of Christ, (3) Commendation of the church, (4) Complaint against the church (5) Cure for the church, (6) Consequence for disobedience (7) Covenant for conquerors
- The religious atmosphere in Ephesus was an “anything goes” kind of paganism.
- *Three things we need to be doing as the church of Jesus Christ...*

1.) Work **HARD** (v. 2-3).

- Jesus commends the church at Ephesus for its reputation of diligence, perseverance, and grit.
- Christ takes pleasure in those who work diligently for Him (Ephesians 2:10, Acts 20:35, 1 Corinthians 15:10).

2.) Hate **DECEPTION** (v. 2b, 6).

- Jesus applauds the Ephesians Christians for their **INTOLERANCE** of false teaching (v. 2b). _
- They were so dedicated to truth that they detested every idea that might deceive the saints.

- Do you hate false doctrines and the deceptions they bring?
- It is a godly thing to be intolerant of false teaching.

2.) Hate deception (v. 2b, 6).

-- Jesus commends the church's **HATRED** of immorality (v. 6).

- The Nicolaitans taught that, because we are saved by grace, we are therefore free to live however we want.
- Jesus commends the church in Ephesus because it hated the immorality of the Nicolaitans and refused to allow it into the church.
- True godliness **REQUIRES** that we hate what God hates (Psalm 97:10, Proverbs 13:5).
- Jesus does not want us to raise up our weaknesses by diminishing our strengths.

3.) Love **PEOPLE** (v. 4).

-- All of the good they were doing was at risk of being utterly undone because of they had abandoned their mandate to love.

- This is no small flaw, as is clear from the consequence Jesus threatens in verse 5.
- The Christians in Ephesus cared deeply about God's truth, but they didn't care about each other.
- When we lose our passion for people, we forfeit our **PURPOSE** in this world as the body of Christ (1 Corinthians 13:1-3, 1 John 4:8).
 - Internally, a church that has lost its love is bound to experience a lack of close relationships and fellowship within the church.
 - Externally, a church that has lost its love will almost certainly fail to engage the world outside of its walls.

-- The remedy to this lack of love comes is to **REMEMBER, REPENT, and RECLAIM.** (v. 5).

- 1.) The first step in overcoming a loveless faith is to remember the love that you once felt for others.
- 2.) Repent of loveless living and pray that God will renew your life in love.
- 3.) Reclaim a life that lives and moves and breathes the love of Christ.