



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

Big Idea: Be dedicated to truth and determined to love.

Introduction

- Today's text is the first of seven letters that Christ writes to seven churches.
- In the course of these seven letters, Jesus gives us a powerful picture of what the church is supposed to be about.
- The religious atmosphere in Ephesus was an “anything goes” kind of paganism.
- There is a 7-part pattern to each of the seven letters in Revelation 2-3:
(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

-- *Three things we need to be doing as the church of Jesus Christ...*

1.) Work _____ (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 _____ (v. 2b, 6).

-- **Jesus very commends the church in Ephesus on account of their intolerance for false teachers (v. 2b).**

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

2.) Hate _____ (v. 2b, 6). (continued)

- **Jesus commends the church's _____ of immorality (v. 6).**
 - The Nicolaitans taught that, because Christians are saved by grace, we are 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 _____ that we hate what God hates (Psalm 97:10, Proverbs 13:5).
- Jesus does not want us to address our weaknesses by diminishing our strengths.

3.) Love _____ (v. 4).

- **The good they were doing was at risk of being disbanded because of they had abandoned their mandate to love.**
 - Lack of love is an extreme flaw, as is clear from the extreme consequence Jesus threatens in v. 5.
 - The Christians in Ephesus cared deeply about God's truth, but they didn't properly for each other.
- **When we lose our passion for people, we forfeit our _____ 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 fellowship within the church.
 - Externally, a church that has lost its love will increasingly fail to engage the world outside of its walls.

-- **The remedy to this lack of love is to _____, _____, and _____ (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 ask God will renew your life in love.
 - 3.) Reclaim a life that is comprehensively characterized by Christlike love.
- Simultaneous dedication to both the truth and love of God is necessary mark of authentic faith.