

New Vision
Seven: Letters of Revelation
Session 2: Letter to Ephesus
Revelation 2:1-7
05/12/2019

INTRODUCTION

Revelation 2:1-7 is the call for the church to return to our “first love,” Jesus Christ. How does your relationship with Christ now compare with what it was like when you first became a Christian? What are the key differences, and what are some of the reasons you can think of for those changes?

UNDERSTANDING

| Revelation 2:1-3.

Briefly look at Acts 19 and the Book of Ephesians (see specifically Eph. 1:15). What are some of the things we know about the city of Ephesus and the church there?

What good things did Jesus say characterized the church at Ephesus in his letter?

Why are each of these traits important for a church to model?

| Revelation 2:4-7.

What was the church’s main problem? How might its strengths have been the cause of its failure?

When our relationships with God and others becomes about duty, rather than love, what are some of the consequences?

How could the church restore their love for God? What do we learn from this church’s example?

Read 1 Peter 1:2-7. How does this text help us understand the seriousness of letting our love for God diminish? What instruction does Peter give that will help us know if we have lost our first love?

Love summarizes the responsibilities one has toward God and mankind. Read Matthew 22:34-40, Jesus’ Great Commandment. What makes loving God the greatest command? The Great Commandment emphasizes loving God with all your heart, soul, and mind (HCSB). What do each of those aspects of a person’s being represent? What does it look like in practical terms to love God with your heart, soul, and mind?

Is your love for others characterized more by action or inaction? Which one characterizes God’s love for us? Why do you think love is such a defining mark of the Christian? Do we tend to think of love as the primary mark of the Christian life? If not, what do we think of as that mark? Why? What most frequently stands in the way of you truly loving others?

In Revelation 2:7, Jesus calls us to hear and obey His warning to the church at Ephesus. What is the reward for those who hear and obey Him? How does this reward change the way you live today?

What draws us back to our first love?

APPLICATION

In what ways have you lost your first love for Christ? How has that loss impacted your relationship with Him? Your other relationships? Your day-to-day life?

What changes are needed in your to help you better love Christ and others?