



## DEAR CHURCH IN EPHESUS

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### Sermon Notes

Text: Revelation 2:1-7

#### Intro:

Revelation is a sledge hammer through the wall of space and time

Revelation 2:1a

Ephesus was a large Roman port city that serves as business, cultural and religious centre. It was also the home to the largest church in the Empire.

Revelation 2:1b-3

Jesus commends the church:

- i. They work hard (v. 2a)
- ii. They are using discernment (v. 2b)

1 John 4:1

- iii. They are suffering well (v. 3)
- iv. They hate what Jesus hates (v. 6)

Revelation 2:4-5

The cure for lost love is repentance.

“Do not waste time bothering whether you ‘love’ your neighbour; act as if you did. As soon as we do this we find one of the great secrets. When you are behaving as if you loved someone, you will presently come to love him.” ~C.S. Lewis

Without love...

- ...service becomes lifeless & routine
- ...endurance in suffering becomes joyless
- ...commitment to truth becomes legalism
- ...hatred of sin becomes hatred of sinners

#### Conclusion:

Revelation 2:7

## Life Group Discussion

### Warm up:

1. What stood out to you about Sunday's sermon? What was interesting? Confusing? Weird? Thought provoking?

### Study & Discussion:

1. Consider the four things Jesus commended in the Church of Ephesus (see notes). Do you see these on display in churches today? Our church?
  - What are some ways to "test the spirits" (1 John 4:1). How can individuals and churches practice good discernment?
  - Do you think western Christians understand the concept of suffering? Why do we form Christian teachings that try to avoid suffering?
  - How can you hate sin without hating the person who is sinning?
2. Read 1 Corinthians 13:1-13. We often read this passage in the context of romantic love. However, it applies more directly to our love for Jesus and one another (and his love for us). What are the evidences of love in a church? What happens when a church loses it's love? How do you get it back? Why is love "the greatest" (v. 13).
3. Consider this quote from C.S. Lewis: "Do not waste time bothering whether you 'love' your neighbour; act as if you did. As soon as we do this we find one of the great secrets. When you are behaving as if you loved someone, you will presently come to love him."

- Do you agree with him? How does this work? Is there a situation where you could apply this?

### Prayer:

- Pray for a renewed passion for Jesus

### Other Requests

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