

YOU HAVE ABANDONED THE LOVE

REVELATION 2:1-7 // TODD DUGARD
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Jesus is in the midst of his church (2:1), and so we must love as we first loved ...building on the good that is happening (2:2-3. 6) ...repenting of what's not so good (2:4-5a) ...heeding the divine warnings (2:5b, 7a) ...trusting the promise of eternal life (2:7b)

GROUP DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Have you ever received a letter that celebrated what you did well? What was the occasion?
2. Revelation 2:2-3 contains a commendation for the Ephesian church. What were they doing that pleased Jesus? If Jesus was to write you a commendation letter, what praiseworthy activity would you have in common with the Ephesians?
3. Why are good works no substitute for sincere love? (Rev 2:4) How does religion without love create an atmosphere for judgement and criticizing others?
4. What encouragement could the Ephesian church draw from hearing that Jesus was amid their struggles to love and obey him despite themselves, the world, and evil? When you feel alone in your struggle, how will it help to know that Jesus is with you?

5. If you have critiqued a church (and you probably have), how do you think your criticism compares with Jesus' perspective of the same people? Can you also see the things that Jesus commends about that church, and if so, what are those commendable actions or attributes?

6. Have you handled criticism about your spiritual life or personal growth in the Lord in a good way? Think back to a moment when God revealed that you were not living the right way in an area. How have you repented and grown since then?

7. What does your life look like when you are 'in love' with all Jesus is doing for you and through you? (Consider this first individually, and then in context of your small group, Christian family, and local church.)

8. How do you feel about the idea of Jesus withdrawing the lampstand (the light) from a church that has **forgotten** how to love him and love each other? In light of eternal life, what personal changes does this potential consequence motivate you to make?