



Losing Our First Love

REVELATION 2:1-7

FORMAT OF 7 MESSAGES

- ▶ Recipient
- ▶ Reference to Christ
- ▶ Commendation (in all but 2 messages)
- ▶ Criticism (in all but 2 messages)
- ▶ Correction (or Encouragement)
- ▶ Call
- ▶ Challenge to Overcomer

MESSAGE TO THE CHURCH OF EPHESUS

- ▶ Recipient (v. 1a)
 - ▶ Are the “messengers” (αγγελοι) supernatural (i.e. angels) or human?



or



THE SEVEN CHURCHES OF ASIA



MESSAGE TO THE CHURCH OF EPHESUS

- ▶ Recipient (v. 1a)
 - ▶ The church in Ephesus



MESSAGE TO THE CHURCH OF EPHESUS

- ▶ Reference to Christ (v. 1b)
 - ▶ “The words of him who holds the seven stars in his right hand . . .”



MESSAGE TO THE CHURCH OF EPHESUS

- ▶ Reference to Christ (v. 1)
 - ▶ “The One who walks in the middle of the seven lampstands”



MESSAGE TO THE CHURCH OF EPHESUS

- ▶ Commendation (vv. 2-3, 6)
 - ▶ Deeds
 - ▶ Hard work
 - ▶ Perseverance

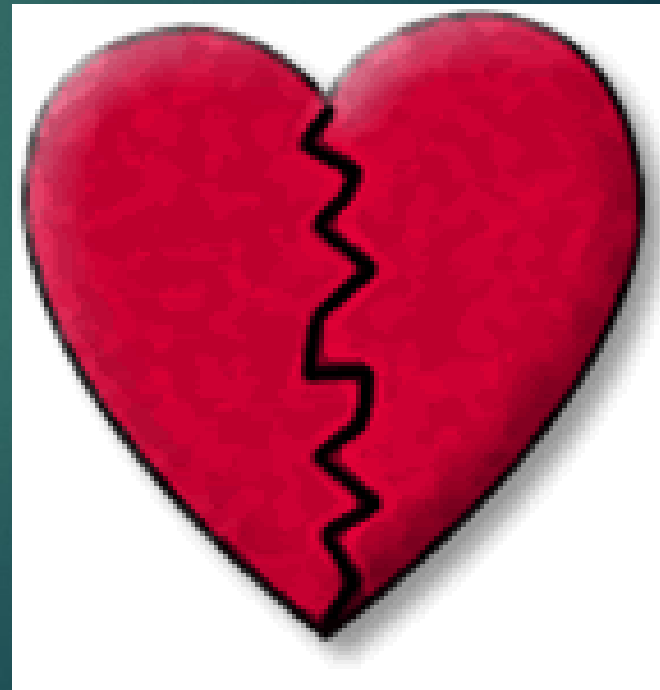
MESSAGE TO THE CHURCH OF EPHESUS

- ▶ Commendation (vv. 2-3, 6):
 - ▶ Doctrinal stability



MESSAGE TO THE CHURCH OF EPHESUS

- ▶ Condemnation (v. 4):
 - ▶ *“You have left your first love.”*



MESSAGE TO THE CHURCH OF EPHESUS

- ▶ Correction (v. 5a):
 - ▶ *Repent*
 - ▶ *Do the things you did at first*



MESSAGE TO THE CHURCH OF EPHESUS

- ▶ Warning (v. 5b)”
 - ▶ “If you do not repent, I will come and remove your lampstand from its place.”



MESSAGE TO THE CHURCH OF EPHESUS

- ▶ God wants more than our hard work.
- ▶ God wants more than for us to have orthodox doctrine.

MESSAGE TO THE CHURCH OF EPHESUS

- ▶ Most importantly, God wants us to have a close relationship to the Lord Jesus Christ, wherein:
 - ▶ We trust Him.
 - ▶ We depend upon Him.
 - ▶ We love Him.

Questions for Discussion



- ▶ How is your service for God? In doing your service, are you mainly focused on what others think of you? Are you mainly concerned about your performance pleasing others?
- ▶ What are two steps we can take to have a more intimate relationship with Jesus Christ?