

Dear Church- Love First

Overall Theme- Being right does not override our responsibility to love well.

“To the angel of the church in Ephesus write:

These are the words of him who holds the seven stars in his right hand and walks among the seven golden lampstands. 2 I know your deeds, your hard work and your perseverance. I know that you cannot tolerate wicked people, that you have tested those who claim to be apostles but are not, and have found them false. 3 You have persevered and have endured hardships for my name, and have not grown weary.

4 Yet I hold this against you: You have forsaken the love you had at first.

5 Consider how far you have fallen! Repent and do the things you did at first. If you do not repent, I will come to you and remove your lampstand from its place.

6 But you have this in your favor: You hate the practices of the Nicolaitans, which I also hate.

7 Whoever has ears, let them hear what the Spirit says to the churches. To the one who is victorious, I will give the right to eat from the tree of life, which is in the paradise of God. Revelation 2:1-7

37 Jesus replied: “Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.’ 38 This is the first and greatest commandment. Matthew 22:37-38

If we get our love for God right, everything else, particularly how we love others will take care of itself.

Above all else, guard your heart, for everything you do flows from it. Proverbs 4:23

This is what he showed me: The Lord was standing by a wall that had been built true to plumb, with a plumb line in his hand. Amos 7:7

Losing or never having a deep love for Jesus will ultimately sabotage our faith.

39 And the second is like it: ‘Love your neighbor as yourself. Matthew 22:39

If we are not loving to those who are far from God then we run the risk of being called to repentance or losing our light.

...love, joy, peace, forbearance, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, and self-control. Galatians 5:22

True love erases any sense of duty as well as the entitlement that goes along with it.

The inadequacy of the law is that it's based on our performance while the glory of Grace is that it's about what Jesus has already done.

7 Whoever has ears, let them hear what the Spirit says to the churches. To the one who is victorious, I will give the right to eat from the tree of life, which is in the paradise of God. Revelation 2:7

We need to repent of our unrighteousness as well as our self-righteousness.