



Ephesus

Series: The Seven Letters

Scripture: Revelation 2:1-7

ch. 1 - make note of how Jesus describes himself

Ephesus:

v2: *"I know your deeds, your hard work and your perseverance."*

- Jesus commends them because they've _____ and _____ in spite of the many _____.

vv4-5: *"Yet I hold this against you: You have forsaken your first love. Remember the height from which 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 lamp stand from its place."*

- They'd not abandoned the _____, but they had abandoned the _____ that was meant to _____ it.
- 3 key verbs given as instructions:
 - R _____
 - R _____
 - Starts with _____ there's a _____ and then _____.
 - They were no longer _____ as Christ's faithful _____ in the world.
 - They'd _____ why they were doing it.
 - R _____
 - Love _____. Love _____.
 - Can we be a people who will _____ like Jesus?
 - The church loses its _____ long before it loses its _____.

Start Talking.

- Who was someone who had a significant influence on your life—for better or for worse? What made their influence so powerful?
- Have you ever had a "first love" experience with a hobby, person, or activity that faded over time? What changed?
- What stood out to you most from this week's message?

Start Thinking:

- Jesus commended the church in Ephesus for their hard work, perseverance, and commitment to truth. Why do you think those qualities alone weren't enough?
- Pastor Troy said, "The church loses its witness long before it loses its building." What do you think that means?
- Why is it difficult to hold firmly to biblical truth while also showing genuine love and compassion to people who disagree with us?
- Read Matthew 22:37-40. Why do you think Jesus refused to separate loving God from loving people?
- Which of Jesus' three commands—Remember, Repent, or Return—do you think is most challenging for believers today? Why?

Start Sharing:

- Looking back over your own spiritual journey, when did you feel closest to God? What was different about your relationship with Him during that season?
- Have you ever found yourself doing the "right things" spiritually while your heart had begun to drift? What helped you recognize it?
- Are there people in your life who are difficult to love? What makes loving them challenging?
- In what ways can our church continue to hold firmly to biblical truth while becoming known for compassion?
- If Jesus wrote a letter to our church today, what encouragement do you think He might give us? What loving correction might He offer?

Start Praying:

- Ask God to rekindle your love for Him and help you remember the joy of your first love.
- Pray for a heart that speaks truth with grace and reflects the compassion of Jesus.
- Pray that your church would shine brightly as a faithful witness in your community by loving God wholeheartedly and loving people well.

Start Doing:

- This week, intentionally practice Remember. Repent. Return.
- **Remember:** Spend 10–15 minutes reflecting on when your relationship with Christ felt vibrant. Thank Him for His faithfulness.
- **Repent:** Ask God to reveal any attitude, habit, or relationship where love has grown cold, and confess it honestly.
- **Return:** Choose one intentional act of love this week. Reach out to someone you've overlooked, encourage someone who needs hope, forgive someone you've held at a distance, or serve someone with no expectation of anything in return.