

**Write Seven Letters and Send Them to The Seven Churches** Revelation 1:1-11

**Each of the Seven Letters follows a similar pattern, but not all elements occur in each:**

- A command to write Revelation 2:1 "To the angel of the church in Ephesus write..."
- A description of the glorified Lord Revelation 2:1
- A positive evaluation Revelation 2:2 I know your (A) deeds, (B) your hard work and (C) your perseverance. (D) 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.
- An encouragement, or warning Revelation 2:3-4
- An exhortation to the spiritually alert Revelation 2:7
- A promise to the overcomer. Revelation 2:7

**The Warning:** Revelation 2:4 Yet I hold this against you: You have forsaken the love you had at first.

**Love is primary.** Without love everything the church does is worthless. (1 Corinthians 13)

- The Ephesians fell in love with Jesus and burned all their idols. (Acts 18-19)
- They learned to bear with one another in love, unity, and peace. (Ephesians 4:2)
- They would speak the truth in love. (Ephesians 4:15-16)
- They were to live a life of love with Christ as their example. (Ephesians 4:32)
- Paul exhorted them to walk in the way of love. (Ephesians 5:2)
- Now as a 30-year-old church they lost their first love for Jesus. (Revelation 2:4)

**Three Symptoms of a Cold Heart**

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_

**BOLD NEXT STEP:** This week I will continue to examine my heart according to these three symptoms of a cold heart: **COMPLACENT / CASUAL / COMPROMISE**

**Next Steps to Get Your First Love for Jesus Back** Revelation 2:5

**Step 1) Consider \_\_\_\_\_ you have \_\_\_\_\_!**

**Step 2) \_\_\_\_\_**

**Step 3) Do the things you \_\_\_\_\_ at \_\_\_\_\_.**

**BOLD NEXT STEP:** This week I will make a list of things I used to do when I first fell in love with Jesus and consider if I'm still doing them? If not, why? **Repent and Return.**

**The Warning Continued:** Revelation 2:5-6 A church may continue to exist without being a light in the darkness.

**Life App Group and Family Devotional Application**

1. What are your initial impressions of this Ephesus church? What have they done right? (Rev. 2:2) What's lacking? (Rev. 2:4) What will be the outcome if they continue this pattern?
2. What do you think happened for them to lose or forsake the love they had decades before? What's the value of remembering or looking back?
3. Believers Church is 20 years old now. Based on this letter, what's the warning for churches like Believers? Is our lampstand in GA permanent? Why or why not? How can a church do good things, but be loveless?
4. Has there been a time when you may have forsaken your first love for Christ and his people? What contributed to losing your passion for God and people?
5. How does a person return to their first love in Christ? What steps or disciplines can help a person restore their passion?

Answers: **COMPLACENT / CASUAL / COMPROMISE / how – far – fallen / Repent / did – first**