

October 18, 2023

The Lord wants you to live in His liberty and freedom.

Seven Letters Of Love: 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. 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. You have persevered and have endured hardships for My name, and have not grown weary. Yet I hold this against you: You have forsaken the love you had at first. 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, but you have this in your favor: You hate the practices of the Nicolaitans, which I also hate. 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 (NIV)

Jesus appeared to John on the island of Patmos after he had been banished for his faith. Jesus told John to write down all that he was going to see as He revealed many things that had yet been unseen. In chapters 2 and 3, we find seven letters to seven churches. Each one is a letter of encouragement, correction, or rebuke. That is what real love is all about. To know the truth and not share it is not love. Jesus shares with each church what would help them be the body of Christ that they should be for this world. Letter 1: To the Church in Ephesus
To come to Christ costs nothing, to follow Christ costs something, but to serve Christ costs everything.—DeHaan. Jesus commends them for their hard work and perseverance and for being faithful and diligent: ***Whoever finds his life will lose it, and whoever loses his life for My sake will find it.*** (Matthew 10:39 NIV)

He commends them for being a separated church and for being in the world but not of the world. He commends them for being a pure church and not accepting the teachings of apostasy by the Nicolaitans. He commends them for being an enduring church for their steadfastness in times of struggle. He commends them for being a set-apart church by sticking to the Gospel message. All of these things were encouraging marks for the church in Ephesus, yet all of these things couldn't hide the one thing that they were missing: their first love.

Although basically faithful, they had unconsciously succumbed to the natural tendency of letting even the most wonderful experience become commonplace. (LaHaye)

Dear Father, help us love You more than anything else. Help us keep our eyes fixed on You. Help us remember what You have done for us and what You want to do through us. We just want to be in Your presence and in Your love. In Jesus's name, Amen