



Leader

9/24 - Revelation 2:1-7

LOVE

A new commandment I give to you, that you love *one another*... (John 13:34)

- *Internal*: How was your week...anything new?! How was your walk with the Lord this week?
- *External*: Is there any individual or family who is struggling or needs encouragement from us?

TRUTH

Let the word of God dwell in you richly, teaching and admonishing *one another*... (Col. 3:16)

1. When you reflect on the message from Sunday, what most resonated with you?

[Dialogue]

2. Let's read the primary text. What do you remember about the city of Ephesus and the churches there?

Ephesus was a wealthy port city on the west coast of Asia. It was well-known for "one of the Seven Wonders of the ancient world," the temple of Artemis (the goddess of fertility). Here the Ephesians would gather to shout "great is Artemis of the Ephesians" (Acts 19:29-40). It was also a hub for learning and positioned near key land routes.

3. John describes the church in Ephesus of having doctrinal vigilance, but also having lost the sense of love. Where is this evidenced in the text?

(+) Doctrinal Vigilance - v.2-3

(-) Loss of Love - v.4

4. What kind of love have they lost? What was the love they had at first?

The love for Christ and the love for others.

5. What Christian fundamental is emphasized in this text. Why?

Repentance. Repentance is an expectation of the Lord and essential for healing and reconciliation between ourselves and our relationship with God.

6. Along with the leaders in Ephesus, Jesus hated the works of the Nicolaitans. Why?

The Nicolaitans were a heretical sect that encouraged idolatry and sexual immorality. These false teachers encouraged true believers to befriend the world and lay down their strict way of life. They argued that if believers would become more like the world, the pagans would be more accepting of them. They believed worldly "inclusion", not holiness, was the better way; compromise was their anthem (See also Rev. 2:14-15, Num. 22-25).

7. What can we learn from the doctrines of the Nicolaitans? How to we ensure we do not succumb to false doctrine such as this?

[Dialogue] - Know true doctrine --- Rightly divide the word of truth. Be able to discern truth from error.

8. Verse 7 provides imagery from the Garden of Eden. What is it and why is this noteworthy?

"I will grant to eat of the tree of life." Revelation points to a time where Jesus will return and reconcile and restore all things to Himself. This picture of returning to "God's original design" displays that God will bring about the restoration of Shalom. Wholeness will be known again within God's perfect peace.

9. Any closing thoughts concerning this text? What have you learned? What does this text teach us about love and endurance?

[Dialogue]

GREAT COMMISSION

Go therefore and make disciples of all nations... (Matt. 28:19-20)

- Did you disciple your family well this week? Is Jesus the reason for your hope in your daily activity?

CONFESSION/PRAYER/REPENTANCE

But exhort *one another* every day, as long as it is called "today," ... (Heb. 3:12-14)

- Confession is agreeing with God about our sin according to the Scriptures. Is there anything you want to confess before the group? [*apathy, idolatry, selfishness, jealousy, anger, envy*]
- Let's pray, asking God to help us apply His word to our lives, putting to death sinful desires.

HOMEWORK: Meditate on our weekly "Fighter Verse" - 1 Cor. 13:4-7. How did last week's verse affect you? Did it cause you to pause or change anything as you progressed through the week?