

**A FOLLOWING CHURCH**  
**Part 1: FIRST LOVE (EPHESUS)**  
**January 13, 2019**

“We love, because He first loved us.”

1 John 1:19 (NASB)

**CHRIST REVEALS HIMSELF**

“On the Lord’s Day I was in the Spirit, and I heard behind me a loud voice like a trumpet, which said: “Write on a scroll what you see and send it to the seven churches: to: Ephesus, Smyrna, Pergamum, Thyatira, Sardis, Philadelphia and Laodicea.”  
Revelation 1:10-11 (NIV)

“I turned around to see the voice that was speaking to me. And when I turned I saw seven golden lampstands, and among the lampstands was someone like a son of man, dressed in a robe reaching down to His feet and with a golden sash around His chest. The hair on His head was white like wool, as white as snow, and His eyes were like blazing fire. His feet were like bronze glowing in a furnace, and His voice was like the sound of rushing waters. In His right hand He held seven stars, and coming out of His mouth was a sharp, double-edged sword. His face was like the sun shining in all its brilliance.”  
Revelation 1:12-16 (NIV)

“For the word of God is alive and active. Sharper than any double-edged sword, it penetrates even to dividing soul and spirit, joints and marrow; it judges the thoughts and attitudes of the heart. Nothing in all creation is hidden from God’s sight. Everything is uncovered and laid bare before the eyes of Him to whom we must give account.”  
Hebrews 4:12-13 (NIV)

- **Jesus sees \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ for who we really are. His Word**  
**\_\_\_\_\_ beyond our actions (which others can see) to our**  
**\_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, and \_\_\_\_\_**  
**(which He sees) – for which we will give an account.**

“The mystery of the seven stars that you saw in My right hand and of the seven golden lampstands is this: The seven stars are the angels of the seven churches, and the seven lampstands are the seven churches.”  
Revelation 1:20 (NIV)

“To the angel of the church in Ephesus write: The One who holds the seven stars in His right hand, the One who walks among the seven golden lampstands, says this ...”  
Revelation 2:1 (NASB)

**CHRIST COMMENDS THE POSITIVE**

“I know your deeds and your toil and perseverance, and that you cannot tolerate evil men, and you put to the test those who call themselves apostles, and they are not, and you found them to be false; and you have perseverance and have endured for My name’s sake, and have not grown weary ... Yet this you do have, that you hate the deeds of the Nicolaitans, which I also hate.”  
Revelation 2:2-3, 6 (NASB)

“So guard yourselves and God’s people. Feed and shepherd God’s flock - His church, purchased with His own blood - over which the Holy Spirit has appointed you as leaders. I know that false teachers, like vicious wolves, will come in among you after I leave, not sparing the flock. Even some men from your own group will rise up and distort the truth in order to draw a following.” Acts 20:28-30 NLT

“If anyone comes to your meeting and does not teach the truth about Christ, don’t invite that person into your home or give any kind of encouragement. Anyone who encourages such people becomes a partner in their evil work.” 1 John 1:10-11 (NLT)

- **The Church in Ephesus \_\_\_\_\_ the right things and engaged in right \_\_\_\_\_. But ...**

### **CHRIST CONDEMNS THE NEGATIVE**

“But I have this against you, that you have left your first love.” Revelation 2:4 (NASB)

- **It is possible to believe the right things and do the right things \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_ for Christ, but not for long.**

### **REKINDLING OUR FIRST LOVE**

“Therefore remember from where you have fallen, and repent and do the deeds you did at first; or else I am coming to you and will remove your lampstand out of its place—unless you repent.” Revelation 2:5 (NASB)

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_
  - a. \_\_\_\_\_
  - b. \_\_\_\_\_
  - c. \_\_\_\_\_
  - d. \_\_\_\_\_

“He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches. To him who overcomes, I will grant to eat of the tree of life which is in the Paradise of God.” Revelation 2:7 (NASB)

**MY NEXT STEP THIS WEEK IS ...**

If I am a Christ follower, rate myself in terms of the following:

First Love

Distracted

Drifting

Forsaken



If my love for Christ is distracted, drifting or forsaken, what will I do this week to Resume my first love?

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In light of Christ's letter to the Church in Ephesus, what do you think Christ would write to GNG? E-mail your thoughts to [jeff@goodnewsgathering.org](mailto:jeff@goodnewsgathering.org).

If I am not a Christian, discover what it means to be a follower of Jesus Christ.  
• Check box on back of Communication Card.

Prepare for next week's lesson by reading Revelation 2:8-11 and reviewing the Revelation Study Guide at [www.goodnewsgathering.org](http://www.goodnewsgathering.org) at the Resource tab.