

Revelation 2:1-7
The Church at Ephesus

The role of Jesus in the local church:

We must answer to Him (Ephesians 1:22-23/Acts 20:28)

Walking in our midst (Matthew 18:20)

The character qualities we need to foster and develop:

Good deeds / Hard work / Perseverance / Not growing weary (Galatians 6:9-10)

Growing in these areas??? How? (Hebrews 6:10-12)

The uncompromising stand we must take:

To not tolerate wicked men (I Corinthians 5:1-6)

To test and expose false teaching (I Thess. 5:21-22 / Acts 17:11 / I John 4: 1-6)

To hate the practices of the Nicolaitans (Romans 12:3-5)

The thing we must never forsake:

Our first love

When was the last time you were overwhelmed by His love?

When was the last time you were broken over your sin? (James 4:8-10)

We must grow in His love (Ephesians 3:17-19)

Ritual, regulation and rules or Response? (Isaiah 1:13)

The same old routine or Deeper and more meaningful?

Our need

Recognizing how far we have fallen

Were you ever there? Brokenness and tears – wonder and joy?

Where are you now? (John 15:5)

Ready to return? (Hosea 14:1-2)

REPENT

Returning to first things

Wanting to spend time with Him (Philippians 3:10)

Wanting to learn and grow (II Peter 3:18)

Wanting to share with others (Philippians 1:18)

The promise He holds out for us:

To eat from the Tree of Life (Genesis 3:22 / Revelation 22:1-3)

To be with Him in Paradise

Discussion questions for Revelation 2:1-7

How does the role of Jesus in the local church impact your attitude and behavior in church?
(Numbers 4:20/Hebrews 10:19-22)

How can we develop hard work and perseverance (not growing weary) in our service to the Lord?
Hint: What things are you willing to work hard for? (I Corinthians 15:58)

How can we recognize false teaching? How do we prepare ourselves to not be seduced by false teachers? (II Timothy 2:15; 3:16-4:5)

How would you describe your relationship with Jesus? What are the signs that your relationship with Him is doing well or is struggling? How can you grow this relationship? (II Peter 1:5-11)

What are you longing for? (Colossians 3:1-4 / II Timothy 4:8)

Revelation 2:1-7
The Church at Ephesus

The role of Jesus in the local church: ***His church, purchased with His blood, He has ALL authority***

We must answer to Him (Ephesians 1:22-23/Acts 20:28)

Walking in our midst (Matthew 18:20) ***When we are gathered in His Name***

The character qualities we need to foster and develop: ***being faithful to continue in His work***

Good deeds / Hard work / Perseverance / Not growing weary (Galatians 6:9-10)

Growing in these areas??? How? (Hebrews 6:10-12) ***our hope in serving Him – He forgets not***

The uncompromising stand we must take: ***staying faithful and true to His Word***

To not tolerate wicked men (I Corinthians 5:1-6) ***those who openly practice wickedness***

To test and expose false teaching (I Thess. 5:21-22/Acts 17:11/I John 4: 1-6) ***teach His Word!***

To hate the practices of the Nicolaitans (Romans 12:3-5) ***all are equal in standing before Jesus***

The thing we must never forsake:

Our first love – ***responding to Him in surrender and desiring to obey His will***

When was the last time you were overwhelmed by His love?

When was the last time you were broken over your sin? (James 4:8-10)

We must grow in His love (Ephesians 3:17-19) ***rooted, established, and shared***

Ritual, regulation and rules or Response? (Isaiah 1:13) ***from the heart***

The same old routine or Deeper and more meaningful? ***Motive & practice***

Our need

Recognizing how far we have fallen ***Why do we need a Savior? I am a sinner!***

Were you ever there? Brokenness and tears – wonder and joy?

Where are you now? (John 15:5) ***I can do nothing apart from the Vine***

Ready to return? (Hosea 14:1-2) ***Come before Him and ask for forgiveness***

REPENT a change of mind, heart, and direction (actions)

Returning to first things – ***has growing & serving become routine?***

Wanting to spend time with Him (Philippians 3:10)

Wanting to learn and grow (II Peter 3:18)

Wanting to share with others (Philippians 1:18)

The promise He holds out for us:

To eat from the Tree of Life (Genesis 3:22 / Revelation 22:1-3) – ***living forever with Him***

To be with Him in Paradise

Discussion questions for Revelation 2:1-7

How does the role of Jesus in the local church impact your attitude and behavior in church?

(Numbers 4:20/Hebrews 10:19-22) ***In the Old Testament, only one person (the High Priest) could come into His Presence and only once a year. We have been welcomed into His Presence (Hebrews 4:16). However, it is easy for us to become casual about being in His Presence and forget that He is a holy God before whom we should be in awe showing Him reverence.***

How can we develop hard work and perseverance (not growing weary) in our service to the Lord?

Hint: What things are you willing to work hard for? (I Corinthians 15:58) ***All our work, no matter what we do, should be unto the Lord, as if we were working for Him. (Ephesians 6:7-8) Our attitude in serving can be a witness to those who do not know Him. And we know that our labor in the Lord is never in vain – other things we invest in may be a waste of time. God will reward us even for a cup of water given in His Name.***

How can we recognize false teaching? How do we prepare ourselves to not be seduced by false teachers? (II Timothy 2:15; 3:16-4:5) ***1: does it align with Scripture 2: does it point us to Jesus (i.e. Who is being exalted?) We need to know His Word and allow it to transform our own lives. We need to diligently study His Word to rightly divide the truth. We need to be wary of the desires of our own flesh that we are molded by the teaching of His Word not seeking to mold His Word to our own ideology.***

How would you describe your relationship with Jesus? What are the signs that your relationship with Him is doing well or is struggling? How can you grow this relationship? (II Peter 1:5-11)

When we are growing in our faith, we are walking in obedience to Him, and this draws us into a closer relationship with Jesus. When we are not growing it is because we forgot that He has washed all our sins away, making every day a brand, new start. We forget to surrender ourselves to Him and the result is disobedience, discouragement, and doubt of our salvation.

What are you longing for? (Colossians 3:1-4 / II Timothy 4:8)

Any longing for the things of this world can become a distraction for what truly matters. To see Jesus face to face (I John 3:1-3) and hear Him say, "Well done good and faithful servant," is the greatest hope we could ever have. May our hearts and minds be focused on the things above that we may eagerly await His shout to take us to be with Him forever. (I Thessalonians 4:16-18)