

## CPR: Christ's Promises in Revelation Ephesus: The Loveless Church

October 18-19, 2014 / Jeff Gunn

Is it possible to be completely \_\_\_\_\_ and completely \_\_\_\_\_ at the same time?

<sup>1</sup> *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. Revelation 2:1, NIV*

Jesus loves the local \_\_\_\_\_ and its \_\_\_\_\_.

<sup>2</sup> *I know your deeds, your hard work and your perseverance. Revelation 2:2a, NIV*

Jesus loves it when a church \_\_\_\_\_ hard. Such churches...

- ✓ Are willing to share their wealth \_\_\_\_\_
- ✓ Aspire to \_\_\_\_\_
- ✓ \_\_\_\_\_ themselves to be \_\_\_\_\_
- ✓ Keep on \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_

*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. Revelation 2:2b, NIV*

Jesus loves it when a church is strong in \_\_\_\_\_.

<sup>3</sup> *You have persevered and have endured hardships for my name, and have not grown weary. Revelation 2:3, NIV*

Jesus loves it when a church \_\_\_\_\_ in hardship.

<sup>4</sup> *Yet I hold this against you: You have forsaken the love you had at first. <sup>5</sup> Consider how far you have fallen! Repent and do the things you did at first. Revelation 2:4-5a, NIV*

Jesus calls for \_\_\_\_\_ when a church forsakes...

- ✓ It's "first-love" \_\_\_\_\_ for Jesus Christ.
- ✓ It's "first-love" \_\_\_\_\_ for real people.

A church like this \_\_\_\_\_ strong in \_\_\_\_\_ and so it \_\_\_\_\_ be a \_\_\_\_\_ community!

*If you do not repent, I will come to you and remove your lampstand from its place. <sup>6</sup> But you have this in your favor: You hate the practices of the Nicolaitans, which I also hate.*

**Revelation 2:5b-6, NIV**

A church that loses \_\_\_\_\_ will ultimately lose \_\_\_\_\_.

<sup>7</sup> *Whoever has ears, let them hear what the Spirit says to the churches. Revelation 2:7a, NIV*

The way back to Jesus is to \_\_\_\_\_ to the Spirit.

*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 2:7, NIV*

<sup>16</sup> *I pray that out of his glorious riches he may strengthen you with power through his Spirit... And I pray that you, being rooted and established in love, <sup>18</sup> may have power, together with all the Lord's holy people, to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ. Ephesians 3:16a, 17b-18, NIV*

The way forward is to \_\_\_\_\_ the love of Jesus, and ask the Spirit to \_\_\_\_\_ our grip on his love.

### MEMORY VERSE

<sup>4</sup> *Yet I hold this against you: You have forsaken the love you had at first. Revelation 1:4, NIV*

**Bottom line:** A "tidy" church that has it all "right", but has lost its "first-love" passion for Jesus and people, has it all wrong!

What's your next step today?

Mark it on your Communication Card.