

Love, First **Revelation 2:1-6**

Central Truth: *“Church on mission is church in love”*

1. When you think of the word Church, what comes to mind for you? Is there a specific moment or something that happened which has informed and shaped the way you think about the local church?
2. Have you ever had an “aha” moment where what you thought to be true eventually proved to be different from reality? Share.
3. Read Luke 15:1-2. Jesus was known as a friend of a sinner. Jesus in the gospels consistently attracted those who were nothing like him. Those far from God, those who were disenfranchised and marginalized loved being with Jesus and they felt like Jesus really loved being with them. On the other hand, religious leaders and those who were suppose to be most like him often found themselves at odds with Jesus. Why do you think this is the case? What was it about Jesus that made him irresistible and consistently attracted the “lost” to Him? What is the implication of this for the local church today?
4. The church of Ephesus was largely credited with having sound doctrine, strong commitment towards hard work and persevering in their faith. And yet, we are told that they were forgetting or have abandon the things they have done when they first fell in love. Why would "forsaking your first love" (v. 4) be so tragic for the church at Ephesus?
5. Why do you think Christ's judgment would be so severe if they did not repent (v. 5)? Why is love so important when it comes to our spirituality?
6. Most would agree that loving God and loving others are the true measure of our spiritual health and maturity. How do you show or express your love towards God? What ways do you love others as a result of your love for God?
7. How do you think we are doing as a church? Why?
8. What one insight from the message or today’s discussion seems most personally significant to you right now, and what implication and action can you take in the next week to start putting this into practice?

*“Here I am! I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears my voice and opens the door, I will come in and eat with that person, and they with me.
To the one who is victorious, I will give the right to sit with me on my throne, just as I was victorious and sat down with my Father on his throne. Whoever has ears, let them hear what the Spirit says to the churches.”*

Revelation 3:19-22