

[SERMON NOTES]

It's Review Season (*Revelation 1:3,12-13*)

You cannot _____ Jesus and not love His _____.

Distinct mark of a faithful church: A genuine passion for God seen through a love for _____ and _____.

3 Attacks on the Churches Worship:

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

The Church of Ephesus (*Revelation 2:1-7, Ephesians 2:8-10*)

You can do all the _____ things, but still lack the _____ thing.

It's easier to _____ your way into a feeling than it is to _____ your way into an action.

[QUICK REVIEW]

Looking at your notes from this week's teaching, was there anything you heard for the first time or something that caught your attention, challenged, or confused you?

[MY STORY]

What is one of your current hobbies you have? And what about it draws your attention to it time and time again?

"Falling" in love is a part of life. Perhaps, we glamorize it more than we should. However, most of us have probably felt the butterflies for another person at some time or another - and we know well those 'feelings' will fade. *If you had to give advice to someone about how 'feelings' should or shouldn't impact our relationships - what might you say?*

[DIGGING DEEPER]

Read Revelation 2:1. *Why do you think the Bible goes to such great lengths here and other places to show us that Jesus "holds the hand" of the church?*

With this in mind, how might you respond to someone who says, "I love Jesus, but not the church?"

Jesus responds to the church in Ephesus with a simple command - return to your first love! This call is best understood in the light of the *Great Commandment* - **Matthew 22:37-40**. *What do you think it looks like to live this passage out?*

The *Great Commandment* is taken from the Old Testament passage called the *Shema* - cf. *Deuteronomy 6:4-9*. If you were to compare the two passages, you would see they are very similar. Ever since the "church" was created - the temple periods until now! - worship was and is the expression of that love! *How do you express your love for God most visibly?*

If Jesus were to write a "review" about First Christian - what do you think He would say we do well? What things might we be commanded to adjust?

What about you? If Jesus were to "review" your faith - what might he say about your worship?

One of the most important facets of the church, through their worship, is to stand out from the world. **Read the following passages:** *Matthew 5:14-16, Luke 8:16, Mark 4:21-23*. *What is the illustration used in these verses to paint a picture of a purpose of the church?*

Why do you think it's vital for the church to live out this illustration? And what do you feel is one area you contribute to that purpose?

[WEEKLY READINGS]

Studies say that someone who reads their Bible 4 times or more a week improves their joy, happiness, contentment, and overall approval of their life. (*1 Tim. 4:8-10,16; 2 Tim. 3:16-17*). As a church, we believe that! Below are 4 passages of Scripture this week to dive into to pull deeper on our weekend's message. We encourage you to take notes in your Bible, and ask yourself: *What does this teach me about God? Myself and others? And how do I follow Jesus better?*

Ephesians 2:8-17

1 Corinthians 13

1 John 3:11-18

Romans 5