

Our Love Relationship with Christ

(Speaker: Jim Engelman)

Comparing ourselves with the Ephesian church, are we growing in our love for the Lord or are we drifting away? (Rev. 2:4)
How can we tell?

Acts 19:8-10 – the church planted, growing and reaching out

Acts 20:28-32 – The leaders encouraged to carry on the ministry (at the end of 3 years of Paul's ministry there.)

The Letter of Ephesians – (written about 7 years after Paul first started at Ephesus)

1. There are no particular points of sin that Paul rebuked them for in the letter
2. Paul encouraged them with their position in Christ – What God did to save them:
3. They are commended for their faith and love (1:15)
4. Paul prays for them to go deeper in their love-relationship with Christ (3:16-19)
5. Paul encourages them to practically apply this love relationship with Christ in their relationship with each other:

1 Timothy 1:5 – the goal of our instruction is love (written maybe a couple of years after Ephesians)

Revelation 2:1-7 – (written by John the apostle from Christ some 30 years after the book of Ephesians)

1. 2:1 -- Christ, who walks among them – for fellowship, and aware of their situation – they can't hide it.
2. 2:2-3 – commends them for their faithful hard work and maintaining "truth"
3. 2:4 – Christ rebukes them because they left their first love for Him
4. 2:5 – Christ calls for them to make it right
 - a. Remember what they had before
 - b. Repent of their sin
 - c. Again do the deeds they did at firstOr I will remove your opportunity to be a light to the world to reach them