



# Sermon Discussion Guide

## WHEN LOVE GROWS COLD

**Revelation 2:1-7**

Pastor Kevin, 9/11/22

Big Idea: It's not enough for our church to hate what God hates. We must love what God loves.

What are some of the 7 Churches in Rev 2-3?

**Ephesus** is theologically/morally sound, but deficient in love.

**Smyrna** is vibrant but fearful.

**Pergamum** is witnessing but undiscerning.

**Thyatira** is loving but over tolerant.

**Sardis** is impressive on the outside but dead on the inside.

**Philadelphia** is struggling but strong.

**Laodicea** is affluent but apathetic.

Why have we been given 7 different churches with 7 different issues, here in Rev 2-3?<sup>1</sup>

It's not all that difficult for us to unite around things that we hate. Why is it more of a challenge to unite around love?

Kevin said that Jesus "didn't ask them to be less of what they are in order to be more of what they are not...He didn't chide them for their strengths." Why is this important for us to consider before looking at this church's weaknesses?

Kevin said that the Church at Ephesus had one big cancerous problem: "Love for neighbors was leaking." What things make it difficult for us to love one another? What does it mean for a church to care more about loving, than assessing one another?

At a church as big as Christ Cov, what are some ways that we can keep from love growing cold?<sup>2</sup>

Who in *your* life has been a great example of loving as Christ loved?

Self-reflection: What opportunities has the Lord given you to grow in love?

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<sup>1</sup> So that we don't boil down the weaknesses to all churches to just one or two things from our own experience, the problems we see, or only things apparent to us.

<sup>2</sup> Many good answers. Kevin mentioned it must be a work of the Spirit for a church to be both committed to faithful doctrine and committed to one another in love (so, prayer is a good place to start!).