



Pastor Scott Archer 10.15.2017*
Central Congregational Church
“For the Glory of God and the Good of our Neighbors”
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Love First, Love Always
Revelation 2:1-7

Central Passage

Revelation 2:1–7 (ESV) — **1** “To the angel of the church in Ephesus write: ‘The words of him who holds the seven stars in his right hand, who walks among the seven golden lampstands. **2** “ ‘I know your works, your toil and your patient endurance, and how you cannot bear with those who are evil, but have tested those who call themselves apostles and are not, and found them to be false. **3** I know you are enduring patiently and bearing up for my name’s sake, and you have not grown weary. **4** But I have this against you, that you have abandoned the love you had at first. **5** Remember therefore from where you have fallen; repent, and do the works you did at first. If not, I will come to you and remove your lampstand from its place, unless you repent. **6** Yet this you have: you hate the works of the Nicolaitans, which I also hate. **7** He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches. To the one who conquers I will grant to eat of the tree of life, which is in the paradise of God.’

Central Thought: As individuals, and especially as a church family, if we are not motivated by love in our intentions and marked by love in our words and actions, we are no longer speaking and acting in the spirit of Jesus Christ, no matter how right or righteous we may be.

To the Church in Ephesus

- ❖ Jesus is Lord of the Church and present among his people. (vs.1)

Matthew 16:15–18 (ESV) — **15** He said to them, “But who do you say that I am?” **16** Simon Peter replied, “You are the Christ, the Son of the living God.” **17** And Jesus answered him, “Blessed are you, Simon Bar-Jonah! For flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but my Father who is in heaven. **18** And I tell you, you are Peter, and on this rock **I will build my church, and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it.**

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- ❖ Nothing we do for Jesus and his kingdom is overlooked. (vs.2)

2 Timothy 1:8–14 (ESV) — **8** Therefore do not be ashamed of the testimony about our Lord, nor of me his prisoner, but share in suffering for the gospel by the power of God...**[For] I am not ashamed, for I know whom I have believed, and I am convinced that he is able to guard until that day what has been entrusted to me. 13** Follow the pattern of the sound words that you have heard from me, in the faith and love that are in Christ Jesus. **14** By the Holy Spirit who dwells within us, guard the good deposit entrusted to you.

- ❖ Our stand against ungodliness and false teaching matters. (vs.2-3, 6)

1 Timothy 4:12–16 (NIV) — **12** Don’t let anyone look down on you because you are young, but set an example for the believers in speech, in conduct, in love, in faith and in purity. **13** Until I come, devote yourself to the public reading of Scripture, to preaching and to teaching...**15** Be diligent in these matters; give yourself wholly to them, so that everyone may see your progress. **16** Watch your life and doctrine closely. Persevere in them, because if you do, you will save both yourself and your hearers.

- ❖ Loving action is what matters most! (vs.4-5)

Isaiah 58:9–11 (ESV) — **9** Then you shall call, and the LORD will answer; you shall cry, and he will say, ‘Here I am.’ If you take away the yoke from your midst, the pointing of the finger, and speaking wickedness, **10** if you pour yourself out for the hungry and satisfy the desire of the afflicted, then shall your light rise in the darkness and your gloom be as the noonday. **11** And the LORD will guide you continually and satisfy your desire in scorched places and make your bones strong; and you shall be like a watered garden, like a spring of water, whose waters do not fail. (See also Mt.25:31-46)

1 Corinthians 13:1–3 (ESV) — **1** If I speak in the tongues of men and of angels, but have not love, I am a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal. **2** And if I have prophetic powers, and understand all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have all faith, so as to remove mountains, but have not love, I am nothing. **3** If I give away all I have, and if I deliver up my body to be burned, but have not love, I gain nothing. (See also Gal.5:6)