

Revelation: Letters to the Churches Ep. 2
The Good, The Bad and The Lovely
Revelation 2:1-7

“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. ³I know you are enduring patiently and bearing up for my name's sake, and you have not grown weary. ⁴But I have this against you, that you have abandoned the love you had at first. ⁵Remember 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. ⁶Yet this you have: you hate the works of the Nicolaitans, which I also hate. ⁷He 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.’

Characteristics of the church of Ephesus:

THE GOOD

- **Good Works and Toil**
 - **Vs. 3a** I know you are enduring patiently and **bearing up for my name's sake**
- **Patient and Enduring**
 - **Vs. 3b** and you have not grown weary.
- **An Understanding of what is Evil**
 - **Isaiah 5:20** Woe unto them that call evil good, and good evil; that put darkness for light, and light for darkness; that put bitter for sweet, and sweet for bitter!
- **An Understanding of who Teaches False Doctrine**
 - **Vs 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.
 - **False Apostles: 2 Corinthians: 4-5** Or if someone comes to you and preaches a Jesus other than the Jesus we preached, or if you receive a different spirit from the Spirit you received, or a different gospel from the one you accepted, you put up with it easily enough. ⁵I do not think I am in the least inferior to those “super-apostles.”
 - **Nicolatians:** A sect of heretical Christianity that adhered to Gnosticism or knowledge based religion as well as fleshly and debaucherous living.

THE BAD & THE LOVELY

- **Vs. 4 But I have this against you**, that you have **abandoned the love** you had at first.
 - This is a church that is continuing to do good in the name of Jesus, but no longer is in love with Jesus.

- We are not called to be in love with love, but with Jesus.

Repent or I will remove your lampstand.

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.

Small Group Questions

1. Verse two talks about works, toil. What would individual works and toil look like in our modern context?
2. How do “works and toil” play out in the organizational church? Meaning, what are the characteristics of an organizational church that is working and toiling? Is LJCF working and toiling for the right things?
3. In verse 4 this church is said to be doing things in the name of Jesus, but having lost its first love. How is that even possible?
4. How do we know when we come across false doctrines or those who espouse them?
 5. What would it mean to “lose your lampstand”?