

The church in Ephesus was battling persecution, danger, false teachings, and sins they needed to overcome. Out of His love for the Ephesian church, Jesus sent them a letter through the Apostle John. What was Jesus' message to the Ephesian church?

First, Jesus holds and walks with the church.

Jesus begins His letter to the Ephesian church by saying, "I hold the seven stars and walk among the seven golden lampstands" (v. 1). This signifies that Jesus is telling the Ephesian church, "I hold the leaders of the church, and I am with the church."

The church is what Christ loves most. The church is the body of Christ, and Christ is the head of the church.

Second, Jesus knows the deeds, labor, and perseverance of the church.

In verses 2 and 3, Jesus acknowledges the deeds, labor, and perseverance of the Ephesian church. Specifically, He commends them for not tolerating wicked people, for testing and exposing false apostles, and for enduring and not growing weary for His name's sake.

Jesus knows how we have served the church and how we have labored for it. He knows this very well. This is both a great comfort and a great burden.

Third, Jesus desires the restoration of first love.

After acknowledging the Ephesian church's labor and perseverance, the Lord rebukes them for one thing in verse 4: "You have forsaken the love you had at first." He urges them to repent and restore their first love. If they do not repent, He warns in verse 5 that He will come and remove their lampstand.

The most important thing Jesus desires for the church is to love Him. The question Jesus asks us today is whether we love Him.

Why is this so important? It is because the Lord loves us. For someone who loves, receiving love in return is the most essential element. Jesus' emphasis on our love for Him is proof of His immense love for us.

Return to the moment when you were overwhelmed by the cross of Jesus and God's great and amazing love. If you still feel the Lord's love and recognize your need for it, confess your love for Jesus through your words and actions.

If we do not love Jesus, the fire of our church will go out. May Hanuri Church rise again. May the fire of love for Jesus burn brightly once more. May we become a victorious church.

**Bible
Memorization**

A VERSE FOR THIS WEEK

“If I give all I possess to the poor and give over my body to hardship that I may boast, but do not have love, I gain nothing.” (1 Corinthians 13:3)

**Bible
Reading**

1/6(Mon)	1/7(Tue)	1/8(Wed)	1/9(Thur)	1/10(Fri)	1/11(Sat)	1/12(Sun)
New	Year's	Bible	Reading	Schedule	Resumes	on 1/13

QT

Quiet Time Passage

12/30(Mon)	12/31(Tue)	1/1(Wed)	1/2(Thur)	1/3(Fri)	1/4(Sat)	1/5(Sun)
John 2:1-12	John 2:13-25	John 3:1-9	John 3:10-21	John 3:22-36	John 4:1-14	John 4:15-26

**Sharing
Questions**

1. Share the grace of God that you experienced in your life through last week's message or your daily devotions this past week.

2. Share any new realizations or blessings you received through today's message.

3. Reflect on whether you are keeping your first love for Jesus and serving the church well, and pray together for the restoration of that first love.