

The Seven Churches of Revelation

Rev. 2:1 – 3:22

In Revelation 1, Jesus appears to John. He pulls back the curtain and instructs John to write what he has seen, what is now, and what is to come (1:19). Then, He reveals to John His evaluation of seven prominent churches of the day. Jesus reveals too John the things of which He approves, as well as those things which He condemns. We would be wise to take heed of Jesus' evaluation of others and learn from what He says.

Church	Commendation	Condemnation
Ephesus (2:1-7)	Good works, endurance, discernment	Departed from their first love
Smyrna (2:8-11)	Faithfulness in persecution	None
Pergamum (2:12-17)	Some faithfulness in persecution	Idolatry, false teaching, immorality
Thyatira (2:18-29)	Some love, faith, service, endurance	Idolatry, false teaching, immorality
Sardis (3:1-6)	Worthy remnant kept clean	Hypocrisy, incomplete works
Philadelphia (3:7-13)	Good works, endurance, faithfulness	None
Laodicea (3:14-22)	None	Pride, materialism, laziness

Take a moment to review these seven churches. Compare them to the church in the United States today. Compare them also to your own life. What do you see?

If you were to be completely honest, which of these churches best represents your personal life, your spiritual growth, and your desire to follow Jesus?

If you're willing, share with your group what you would like to see change in your spiritual life? How will you pursue this change?