

# The Seven Churches of Revelation

Church	Characteristic Summary	Christ	Condition (+/-)	Command	Commitment (+/-)
Ephesus	Truth-zealous but loveless	Firmly holds the seven stars, walks among the lampstands	Persevering, rejected false apostles, didn't tolerate evil people, hated the deeds of the Nicolaitans	Remember from where you have fallen, repent, do the deeds you did at first	Partake of the tree of life in the paradise of God
			Left first love		Christ will remove their lampstand
Smyrna	Suffering	First and last, who was dead and has come to life	Enduring tribulation, poverty, and blasphemy	Do not fear suffering, be faithful until death	Crown of life, will never be hurt by the second death
Pergamum	Persevering yet permissive	Has the sharp, two-edged sword	Dwell where Satan's throne is, have held fast to Christ in persecution	Repent	Partake of the hidden manna, gain a white stone and new name
			Some hold to the teaching of Balaam, some to the Nicolaitans		Christ will make war against them with the sword of his mouth
Thyatira	Progressing yet permissive	Eyes like fire, feet like bronze	They have love, faith, service, and perseverance	Hold Fast	Be granted authority over the nations, the morning star
			They tolerate Jezebel	Repent	Tribulation, death, just retribution
Sardis	Dead	Has the seven Spirits of God and the seven stars	Has a reputation of life, but is dead	Wake up, strengthen what remains, remember what you received, keep it, repent	Walk in white, name in book of life, name confessed before the Father and the angels.
					Christ will come like a thief (judgment)
Philadelphia	Persevering and obedient	The holy and true one, has the key of David, opens and no one shuts, and shuts and no one opens	They have an open door, have kept Christ's Word, have not denied Him, have persevered	Hold fast what you have	Kept from the hour of testing, be a perpetual pillar in God's sanctuary, be inscribed with the name of God, Jesus, and the New Jerusalem
Laodicea	Offensively useless yet boastful	The Amen, the faithful and true witness, the beginning of the creation of God	Lukewarm (offensively useless), boastful	Be zealous and repent	Christ will dine with them, and they will sit with Christ on His throne
					Will be spit out of Christ's mouth

# The Seven Churches Today

Church	Characteristic Summary	Modern Temptations/Dangers
Ephesus	Truth-zealous but loveless	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Treating the Triune God as an “ology” to study rather than persons to know and love</li> <li>Treating Scripture more like an exegetical puzzle to solve than communication from the personal God</li> <li>Allowing our zeal for truth to cause our hearts to grow cold toward others or our own sin</li> <li>Signs our love has grown cold: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Apathy toward personal devotion</li> <li>Apathy toward personal sin</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
Smyrna	Suffering	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Fear of suffering leads to compromise or falling away (think “rocky soil” Mark 4:17)</li> <li>General trials and tribulations take our eyes off Christ and we fail to persevere.</li> <li>Receiving commendation without condemnation could lead to pride</li> </ul>
Pergamum	Persevering yet permissive	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Permissive attitude toward false teaching</li> <li>Permissive attitude toward sin – especially when the sin is by a close friend or family of those in leadership.</li> <li>Failing to preach on some sins or texts because you don’t want to “rock the boat”</li> <li>Blending Christianity with paganism (enneagram, eastern meditation, etc.)</li> </ul>
Thyatira	Progressing yet permissive (compromising)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Permissive attitudes (similar to above, though perhaps “closer to home” i.e. when the sin/false teaching is by leaderships or a close friend or family of those in leadership.)</li> <li>Desire for cultural approval over Scriptural fidelity (be “inclusive” or “affirming”)</li> <li>Tolerating openly false teachers</li> <li>Failing to confront influential people who are in error</li> </ul>
Sardis	Dead	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Getting everyone busy serving without tending to their soul</li> <li>Resting on past achievements and reputation</li> <li>Big attendance, programs, community influence, but no meaningful evangelism or discipleship</li> <li>Exciting and experiential instead of exulting in Christ</li> <li>Apathy toward personal devotion, holiness, the Scriptures, etc.</li> </ul>
Philadelphia	Persevering and obedient	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Failing to hold fast what has been held fast to up until now.</li> <li>Receiving commendation without condemnation could lead to pride</li> </ul>
Laodicea	Offensively useless yet boastful	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Pride in wealth and self-sufficiency</li> <li>Being a poor steward of the wealth that has been given</li> <li>Not doing anything of eternal value – complete lack of evangelism and discipleship</li> <li>Perhaps a feel-good prosperity message?</li> </ul>
All Churches	TBD	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Failing to have an ear for what the Spirit says to the churches</li> <li>Thinking these warnings are for <i>those churches over there</i> instead of <i>my church right here</i></li> </ul>