



## The Value of Intolerance and the Danger of Lost Love

October 3, 2021

**Holding to the truth is costly and can be hard in our world, but it is the journey of every Jesus follower**

### The City of Ephesus

- A Center of Culture
- A Cesspool of the Ancient World

**Getting the [Picture](#):** A Vision

Revelation 2:1-7

*"To the angel of the church in Ephesus write:*

*These are the words of him who holds the seven stars in his right hand and walks among the seven golden lampstands. I know your deeds, your hard work and your perseverance. I know that you cannot tolerate wicked people, that you have tested those who claim to be apostles but are not, and have found them false. You have persevered and have endured hardships for my name, and have not grown weary. Yet I hold this against you: You have forsaken the love you had at first. 5 Consider how far you have fallen! Repent and do the things you did at first. If you do not repent, I will come to you and remove your lampstand from its place. But you have this in your favor: You hate the practices of the Nicolaitans, which I also hate. Whoever has ears, let them hear what the Spirit says to the churches. To the one who is victorious, I will give the right to eat from the tree of life, which is in the paradise of God.*

### The One who holds the seven stars and walks among the seven golden lampstands,

- Jesus rules over the spiritual world
- Angels are God's messengers and are still at work
- Jesus walks among His people and the Church

Revelation 7:15-17

*Therefore, "they are before the throne of God and serve him day and night in his temple; and he who sits on the throne will shelter them with his presence. 'Never again will they hunger; never again will they thirst. The sun will not beat down on them,' nor any*

*scorching heat. For the Lamb at the center of the throne will be their shepherd; 'he will lead them to springs of living water.' And God will wipe away every tear from their eyes."*

***Can you see Jesus present, ruling, and leading His people?***

Getting the **Message**: Understanding God's Truth

**God delights when His people serve Him and pour out their lives for His glory and hang in there even when times are hard.**

**God expects His followers to know what is true and good and stand against false teaching and deception. Intolerance can be good and honor God.**

**Perseverance, endurance, strength can honor the name of Jesus**

***What are ways we can honor God by being intolerant?***

**God cares deeply about the condition of our heart. Love is supreme.**

***What can we do to rekindle our first love and fan the flames?***

Getting a **Move on It!**: Taking action in our life and the Church

**I Will**

- **Consider:** Take an honest look at how I have slipped, fallen, cooled off

**I Will**

- **Repent:** This is really serious, in mind, heart, and action

**I Will**

- **Change:** Do what I did at first

**I Will**

- **Recognize and Resist:** False teaching

**I Will**

- **Walk in Victory:** Experience heavenly blessing

Revelation 2:7

*Whoever has ears, let them hear what the Spirit says to the churches. To the one who is victorious, I will give the right to eat from the tree of life, which is in the paradise of God.*

***What is my next move to honor and follow Jesus?***