The Seven Churches of Revelation

EPHESUS | The First Love

Teaching Purpose

Seven historical congregations

The message to Ephesus

Faithfulness without first love

Four Interpretive Perspectives

Historical — first-century assemblies

Prophetic — proposed succession of eras

Congregational — patterns across communities

Personal — examine our own hearts

No Perfect Congregations

Early assemblies faced persecution and weaknesses

Modern comfort is not a measure of faithfulness

Ekklesia means a gathering or assembly

John Sees the Risen Messiah

Revelation 1:9-20

Yeshua stands among seven golden lampstands

Seven stars are held in His right hand

Understanding the Symbols

Lampstands: seven congregations

Stars: angels or messengers of the assemblies

Identity of messengers remains debated

The Right Hand

Exodus 15:6

Symbol of power and honor

Yeshua’s right hand reassures John

Yehovah Among His People

Leviticus 26:11-12

Deuteronomy 23:12-14

Divine presence calls for holiness

Ephesus: Revelation 2:1-7

Yeshua knows the assembly’s works

Labor, patience and endurance

Testing false apostles

The Ephesian Commendations

Refuses to tolerate evil

Discerns deception

Perseveres for Yeshua’s name

Nevertheless…

“You have left your first love”

The central rebuke cuts through commendation

External faithfulness cannot substitute for love

Remember · Repent · Return

Revelation 2:5

Recall where devotion began

Repent and do the first works

The Acts 19 Beginning

Acts 19:13-20

Confession and renunciation of former practices

Costly books publicly burned

What Is First Love?

Devotion rooted in relationship

Faithfulness joined with gratitude

Love expressed through commandments

How Can It Be Lost?

Routine without relationship

Doctrinal precision without compassion

Appearance over genuine worship

Law Without Love

Obedience and love belong together

John 14:15

Truth must be spoken in love

Avoid Harsh Correction

Ephesians 4:15-16

Galatians 6:1-2

Restore gently instead of humiliating

Leadership and the Messenger

Angel or human messenger?

Malachi 2 and Ezekiel 3

Leadership implies serious stewardship

The Lampstand Warning

Repentance is not optional

Revelation 2:5

Do not overclaim later historical fulfillment

The Promise to Overcomers

Revelation 2:7

Tree of life in God’s paradise

A promise of lasting fellowship and life

A Personal Heart Check

Do I serve from love or habit?

Can I discern truth without pride?

Have I forgotten my gratitude?

Community Discussion

Restoring others in love

Church as ekklesia, not a building

Relationship between Torah and discipleship

Read the Full Seven Churches Series

Ephesus: first love

Smyrna, Pergamum and Thyatira

Sardis, Philadelphia and Laodicea

Teaching Conclusion

Yeshua values diligence and discernment.

He also calls us to devotion and love.

Remember, repent, and return to first works.