

The Seven Churches Summary

The Church	The Problem	The Lesson
<u>Ephesus</u>	Loveless	<i>God doesn't care about our ministry, ability or service for Him if it does not flow from a heart of love for Him!</i>
<u>Smyrna</u>	Persecution	<i>When trials come love for God is what keeps us faithful. Faithfulness however will bring hatred from the world. Hatred from the world will bring persecution which, if we let it will drive us closer to the God we love!</i>
<u>Pergamum</u>	No Integrity	<i>There is no scenario in which God is okay with our continued sin. Intimacy with God will keep us from sin or sin will keep us from intimacy with God!</i>
<u>Thyatira</u>	Corruption	<i>The mark of a Godly leader is humility not control. A church that tolerates divisive and controlling people is as guilty as the person they tolerate. Control of the church belongs to God and God alone!</i>
<u>Sardis</u>	Death and Dying	<i>The life of a church comes from the Holy Spirit. Churches that operate on the power of man risk dying spiritually and not realizing it. It is possible to have all the marks of spiritual life, but actually be spiritually dead!</i>
<u>Philadelphia</u>	Victory and Health	<i>A Church that has allowed God to make them healthy is a church that God blesses and entrusts with His purposes!</i>
<u>Laodicea</u>	Uselessness and Deception	<i>A church that has lost intimacy with God is a church that has lost effectiveness in the world!</i>

Marks of a Healthy Church:

1. **Love** for God drives everything else.
2. **Trials** produce **intimacy**.
3. **Truth** is non-negotiable.
4. The leaders are **humble** and **Spirit** controlled.
5. **Life**.
6. Doors of **Ministry** are open.
7. The Church is an agent for **healing** and **renewal** in the world because of their **intimacy** with God.

Application:

- Let's look at ourselves in light of these marks of health.
- Where are we healthy?
- Where do we fall short?
- How does God want to develop these things in us?
- What could hinder the development of these things?