
How A Great Church Goes Bad

THE CHURCH AT EPHESUS

Acts 19

AN AMAZING START

Acts 19

- Go where the _____ is. Ignore the _____.
Acts 19:1-10
- Real deal _____ & shabby counterfeits.
Acts 19:11-17/ 2 Thessalonians 2:9-10 & 2 Corinthians 11:14-15
- From savior to _____.
Acts 19:18-20/ Matthew 5:29-30
- An open door doesn't mean _____.
Acts 19:21-41/ 1 Corinthians 16:8-9

EARLY WARNING SIGNS

1 Timothy/ Ephesians

BANKRUPT BUT STILL WRITING CHECKS

Revelation 2:1-7

- They had lots of _____ for God – but little _____.
1 Corinthians 13:1-3
- ✓ If I love God...I _____.
All of them, not just the ones I agree with!
John 14:15/ 1 John 2:3-5/ 1 John 5:3
- ✓ If I love people...I'm _____, _____, _____

(not _____ or _____).

Especially to those I disagree with.

John 13:35/ 1 Corinthians 13:4-8/ 1 John 2:9-10/ 1 John 3:16-18/ 1 John 4:8-11/ Philippians 2:3-5

Home Fellowship Questions

This week we explored the story of a great church (the church in Ephesus) that grew and thrived, yet ended up in a spiritually bad place. No one plans on starting strong and ending weak, so this week we'll see what we can do to avoid the trap they fell into. We'll use insights from the book of Ephesians to discover what we can do to be sure that we stay on track as individuals and as a church.

1. When challenges hit, we can easily forget all that we have received through God's spirit working in us. In the following passages, the Apostle Paul points out what we've received because we are followers of Jesus. Jot down these verses in your own words.

Ephesians 1:3, 7-9

Ephesians 2:10, 19-21

Ephesians 3:20-21

Which of these Scriptures are most encouraging to you and why?

2. One of the key issues the Ephesians seemed to lose sight of was who they were *before* they knew Christ. How does Paul describe their state (and ours) prior to coming to Christ.

Ephesians 2:1-4

Ephesians 2:11-13

Verse 4 and 13 above refer to our condition before knowing Christ as "objects of wrath" and being "far away" from God. These statements point toward our absolute need of God's forgiveness and grace in our lives. Have there been any times in your life when the realization of your own sinfulness and God's forgiveness particularly caught your attention? How could remembering this help you continue to show the same kind of love and grace toward others?

3. Paul gave the Ephesians a number of specific guidelines to not only obey, but also help them live out God's character and love toward others. As you read the passages below, jot down what Paul says to do and circle anything you sense God trying to get your attention on. Take some time to pray about how to apply it in your life.

Ephesians 4:1-3

Ephesians 4:25-28

Ephesians 4:29-32

Ephesians 5:3-5

Ephesians 6:7