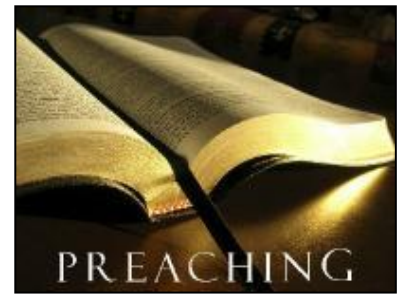


Sermon-Based Discussion Guide for Home Groups

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Room Temperature Relationships:

From Not to Hot

February 20, 2011

Les Hughes, Senior Pastor

SCRIPTURE

Revelation 2:4-7

⁴ 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. ⁶ But you have this in your favor: You hate the practices of the Nicolaitans, which I also hate.

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.

ENGAGE

Have you ever met someone who came to Christ long ago, but doesn't seem to have made any spiritual progress since then? What is this person's life like?

DISCUSS

1. Read the focal passage above. What was the issue brought against this group of believers?
2. What percent of our church do you believe has "lost their first love?" What things in life cause this? How can we battle against this happening?
3. Does it bring more comfort or fear to you to realize that God knows everything about us? Why?
4. Room temperature relationships rely on past deeds, but lack present experiences. Tell of a time you have realized this to be true in your spiritual life?
5. For the Christian, love for Christ can't be separated from love for others. Why is this true or false? What are the implications of this truth to our actions?
6. The one who listens to and obeys God will overcome room temperature. How do we practice listening? Do you find it more difficult to listen to God or to obey what you know He has spoken?

7. We're given three steps to get back to where we were: a) remember from where we've fallen, b) repent and c) act on that truth. Which of these is most difficult? How do we repent and what does that mean?

YOUR NEXT STEP

What area of your life is God calling you to restore? What will you do this week to repent or remember or respond?

CHILDREN'S TIME

1. Talk about luke-warmness and how water this temperature is good for nothing. We want cold water to drink and hot water to shower in.
2. Tell how easy it is for our relationship with God or with others to slip away. We have to work on relationships. It's like rolling a rock up a hill... when we don't work on it, it rolls back down.
3. Ask children what they do to have a relationship with Christ? How can we keep working on them?

OTHER PASSAGES

- 1 John 4 We can't say that we love God and hate our brother.