

Deane Church + Lostock Church
w/b Sunday 14th January 2018
Revelation 2:1-7

1. What would a church very much in love with Jesus be like today?

Read Revelation 2:1-7

Throughout the Bible our relationship with God is likened to the relationship between a bride and groom. In the Old Testament, God speaks of having taken Israel for his bride. He pledged his love for her and called her into a loving relationship with him. Yet Israel began to flirt with other lovers, with the gods of the people around her. And soon she was more in love with those other gods – materialism, comfort, entertainment and financial security. She kept going (for a while) with external forms of devotion to God, but she was no longer in love with him. Over and over again we hear God plead with Israel, calling her back to him. The book of Revelation builds up to the revealing of the bride of the Lamb (Jesus Christ). *'Blessed are those who are invited to the marriage supper of the Lamb'* (Rev 19:9). The church in Ephesus, the most influential church in Asia Minor, had fallen out of love, out of affection, out of intimacy with Jesus.

2. What would a church that had fallen out of love with Jesus be like today?

3. If nothing is done, what is the consequence (2:5)?

4. Jesus' warning is not just to a church but to the individual members. As one writer puts it:

Can you hear the divine lover calling?...

You used to listen to my voice. You used to take time to be still before me to seek my face and enjoy my company. You used to open yourself up to my word daily. Nothing got in the way. You used to not complicate my commandments. You took them at face value and found freedom in obeying them. You used to weep for those who do not know me. You used to realise that you cannot make it on your own and trust me to look after you.

5. How is the spiritual health of a church related to that of it's members?

6. What would you appreciate prayer for in the week ahead to help you to be more in love with Jesus?