



- **God defines** what kind of church **we are to be.**
- **I determine** the kind of church **we will be.**

What does God want His church to be?

1. God wants His church to present His light.

...the seven lampstands are the seven churches.

Revelation 1:20b (NIV)

You are the light that gives light to the world. A city that is built on a hill cannot be hidden. ¹⁵ And people don't hide a light under a bowl. They put it on a lampstand so the light shines for all the people in the house. ¹⁶ In the same way, you should be a light for other people. Live so that they will see the good things you do and will praise your Father in heaven.

Matthew 5:14-16 (NCV)

You used to be like people living in the dark, but now you are people of the light because you belong to the Lord. So act like people of the light.

Ephesians 5:8 (CEV)

2. God wants His church to possess His love.

I know your deeds, your hard work and your perseverance. I know that you cannot tolerate wicked people, that you have tested those who claim to be apostles but are not, and have found them false.

³ You have persevered and have endured hardships for my name, and have not grown weary.

Revelation 2:2-3 (NIV)

Yet I hold this against you: You have forsaken the love you had at first.

Revelation 2:4 (NIV)

This is what the Lord says: "I remember how eager you were to please me as a young bride long ago, how you loved me and followed me even through the barren wilderness."

Jeremiah 2:2 (NLT)

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.

Revelation 2:5 (NIV)

*If I had the gift of being able to speak in other languages without learning them and could speak in every language there is in all of heaven and earth, but didn't love others, I would only be making noise. ² If I had the gift of prophecy and knew all about what is going to happen in the future, knew everything about everything, but didn't love others, what good would it do? Even if I had the gift of faith so that I could speak to a mountain and make it move, I would still be worth nothing at all without love. ³ If I gave everything I have to poor people, and if I were burned alive for preaching the Gospel but didn't love others, it would be of no value whatever. **1 Corinthians 13:1-3 (TLB)***

God's grace to all of you who love our Lord Jesus Christ with love that never ends.

Ephesians 6:24 (ERV)

How do I rekindle my love for God?

1- I remember what Jesus has done for me.

*"Think about those times of your first love..." **Revelation 2:5a (TLB)***

That is why, ever since I heard of your strong faith in the Lord Jesus and of the love you have for Christians everywhere, ¹⁶⁻¹⁷ I have never stopped thanking God for you. I pray for you constantly, asking God, the glorious Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, to give you wisdom to see clearly and really understand who Christ is and all that he has done for you.

Ephesians 1:15-17 (TLB)

2- I return to the habits that deepen my love for Jesus.

...turn back to me again and work as you did before...

Revelation 2:5b (TLB)

*Live a life filled with love, following the example of Christ. He loved us and offered himself as a sacrifice for us, a pleasing aroma to God. ³ Let there be no sexual immorality, impurity, or greed among you. Such sins have no place among God's people. ⁴ Obscene stories, foolish talk, and coarse jokes—these are not for you. Instead, let there be thankfulness to God. **Ephesians 5:2-4 (NLT)***