

## HOW TO HURT JESUS

**Revelation 2:1-4    1 Peter 4:17**

**Introduction:** Have you ever been hurt by what someone did or said or did not do whom you thought was a friend? When a friend does something that hurts us, it always hurts more than if that person was not a close friend doesn't it. Well, the same thing happened/s to Jesus. In the Revelation of Jesus to John, there are seven churches mentioned and each church is different in the eyes of Jesus. Jesus complimented the churches for their strengths, then He pointed out their weaknesses. There was one church in particular that hurt Jesus the most.

### **I. THE CHURCH AT EPHESUS HURT JESUS THE MOST**

1. Looking back through the Bible we note that David was hurt most by his close "friends."
2. With the Church at Ephesus, there was a time when Paul complimented the church.
3. Ephesus was indeed a strong Church, one that could have been the envy of other Churches.
4. Jesus even complimented the Church at Ephesus at first.
5. Yet, even with His compliment, Jesus was deeply hurt by what the Church at Ephesus had done.  
- They had allowed their love for Jesus to "wither," to wane, to fade, to weaken.
6. Put yourself in the place of the Church at Ephesus, does Jesus have cause to have something against you as He did this Church? Have you been doing the same thing this Church was doing, losing your affection for Jesus? Is Jesus no longer your "first love?"

### **II. THE SAME THING IS HAPPENING TODAY AMONG CHRISTIANS**

1. There is more to being like Jesus wants us to be than being moral, attend services, giving, etc.
2. Jesus must become more important in the believer's life as time goes by. Every day with Jesus should be sweeter than the day before...
3. The bible speaks of David thirsting for God as a deer thirsted for water.
4. The excuse is given, "Jesus knows I love Him...," "I'm not all that bad,"....etc..
5. Face it, does Jesus have MORE of you today than ever before? Be truthful.
6. Has your love for Jesus weakened as it did with the Church at Ephesus?

### **III. SOME SIGNS THAT ONE'S LOVE FOR JESUS IS FADING, DYING**

1. One is spending more time on things of this world than with Jesus.
  - What do you spend your time doing?
    - Work, school, computers, television, hobbies
  - Jesus spoke of a man who gave a party for his friends but none could attend for they had other things "more important" to do.
  - Many once effective Christians have become empty, useless, just names on the church roll. They have lost their closeness to Jesus.
  
2. By allowing interruptions to take away your time with Jesus.
  - How do you make someone feel important?
  - How do people in love act? (always together, etc..)
  - The story is told of a husband coming home from a long trip who called his wife and they planned a quiet romantic evening together when he got in. Ten minutes into their romantic evening her mother called and talked and talked and talked, she said she was lonely and just wanted to talk. Her mother was more important than her husband.
  - How does he feel after "setting the table for you" but you never show up?
  
3. By giving in to habitual sin.
  - To sum it all up, SIN replaces Jesus in our lives.
    - We allow things we love to do, etc. replace our time with Jesus

### **CONCLUSION:**

1. Truthfully, what kind of love do you have for Jesus?
  - Do you give Him quality time or left over time? Do you "work" Jesus in now and then?
  
2. Christian, return to your first love and that first love should be the Lord Jesus Christ.
  
3. Make Jesus priority in your life.
  
4. Remember the Church at Ephesus. It had a lot of good things going but gradually the good things going began to replace Jesus and eventually He was not the Church's first love.
  - Check out your own life now, is the same thing happening to you?