

## “Tailgating: All In”

Week 2 – The Loveless Church

### warm-up

**Group Ice Breaker:** Have each person in the group make these two lists:

1. List all the things that could and should be exciting about Christianity.
2. On the 2<sup>nd</sup> list, name things from your first list that you regularly experience in your personal faith.

Where are the gaps in our lists? What can we do to close these gaps?

### word & application

#### Revelation 2:1-7

*“Write this letter to the angel of the church in Ephesus. This is the message from the one who holds the seven stars in his right hand, the one who walks among the seven gold lampstands: I know all the things you do. I have seen your hard work and your patient endurance. I know you don’t tolerate evil people. You have examined the claims of those who say they are apostles but are not. You have discovered they are liars. You have patiently suffered for me without quitting. But I have this complaint against you. **You don’t love me or each other as you did at first!** how far you have fallen! Turn back to me and do the works you did at first. If you don’t repent, I will come and remove your lampstand from its place among the churches. But this is in your favor: You hate the evil deeds of the Nicolaitans, just as I do. Anyone with ears to hear must listen to the Spirit and understand what he is saying to the churches. To everyone who is victorious I will give fruit from the tree of life in the paradise of God.”*

**Discussion & Application:** Explore these questions through in-depth conversation.

- *In what ways do we make our Christianity about works?*
  - *Do we focus more on the HABIT instead of the MOTIVATION? (2 Cor 12:9)*
  - *Do we pursue personal holiness for the sake of our reputation, or do we pursue a relationship with the Holy Spirit that drives holy behavior? (Gal 5:16)*
  - *Do we celebrate God’s power and love, or do we celebrate our faithful accomplishments? (Philippians 4:4-7)*
- *How can we steer our hearts back to the love that Jesus called us to?*
  - *How can we adopt a “love will bear the fruit of obedience” attitude and lose the “obedience will result in love for me” attitude? (John 15:5)*
  - *How can we focus on renewing the flame inside of us instead of trying to conform to a certain “model of Christianity”? (2 Tim 1:6-7)*

### prayer

Share recent “God moments”. Pray over requests. Pray that we can embrace Jesus Christ’s call to truly love God above all and rely completely on His fullness, allowing His Holy Spirit to completely guide us and bear loving fruit in the lives of others. Pray that the Holy Spirit opens our hearts and eyes to opportunities to shift our focus away from our personal “Christian achievement” and to living out Jesus’s loving example of humble servanthood.