

# BROKEN

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## *Redefined*

Part 4: I Have a Secret

February 2 & 3, 2019

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### **The “Before” Picture of Ephesus**

For this reason, ever since I heard about your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love for all the saints, I have not stopped giving thanks for you, remembering you in my prayers. – Ephesians 1:15-16

As for you, you were dead in your transgressions and sins, in which you used to live when you followed the ways of this world and of the ruler of the kingdom of the air, the spirit who is now at work in those who are disobedient. – Ephesians 2:1-2

But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far away have been brought near through the blood of Christ. – Ephesians 2:13

Consequently, you are no longer foreigners and aliens but fellow citizens with God’s people and members of God’s household. – Ephesians 2:19

And in Him, you too are being built together to become a dwelling in which God lives by His Spirit. – Ephesians 2:22

For you were once in darkness, but now, you are light in the Lord. – Ephesians 5:8

### **The Caution to the Church in Ephesus**

Be very careful then, how you live – not as unwise, but as wise, making the most of every opportunity, because the days are evil. – Ephesians 5:15-16

### **The “After” Picture of Ephesus**

Yet I hold this against you: You have forsaken your first love. Remember the height from which 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 2:4-5

### **Question: How do I know if I have forsaken my first love?**

#### **Answer: 1 John 2:3-6**

We know that we have come to know him if we obey his commands. The man who says, “I know him,” but does not do what he commands is a liar, and the truth is not in him. But if anyone obeys his word, God’s love is truly made complete in him. This is how we know we are in him: whoever claims to live in him must walk as Jesus did.

Jesus replied: “Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.”<sup>38</sup> This is the first and greatest commandment.<sup>39</sup> And the second is like it: “Love your neighbor as yourself.” – Matthew 22:37-39

“A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. – John 13:34

## **Spiritual Inventory**

Do I love to worship God with all of my heart, soul, mind and strength?

Do I love to listen to God through prayer and by reading his Word for wisdom, knowledge, comfort and guidance?

Do I love to talk to God about the needs of others, my dreams and my trials?

Do I love to share my faith in Jesus with other people?

Do I love to steward the financial trust that God has given me by honoring him with the first portion of what I earn out of gratitude and thanksgiving?

Do I love to use my spiritual gifts and abilities to bless my spiritual family and to bring other people into a saving relationship with Jesus?

Do I love to be in community with other believers?

Do I love to meet the real needs of those who are poor, sick, persecuted and in genuine crisis?

### **If I have forsaken my first love, what do I do?**

1. Remember the height from which you have fallen
2. Repent and ask God for forgiveness
3. Return and do the things you did at first

### **Next Steps**

Our 12 Step Spiritual Journey started on Monday, but there's still some room left and one last chance to participate. To join the journey, sign up today at the Connection Point.

Besides 12 Steps, we're offering a few other classes to help you find healing in specific areas of brokenness. See CTK Life or ask at the Connection Point for more information about these upcoming opportunities:

#### **Invaded Lives**

Coed class starts Monday, February 25 from 6:30–8:15 PM

Women's class starts Wednesday, February 27 from 10:00 AM–Noon

**Stand Firm** for men starts Tuesday, February 5 from 6:30–8:15 PM

### **Small Group Questions**

- 1) Do you watch any of the before/after shows on TV? What's your favorite?
- 2) If you've begun a relationship with Jesus, what do you remember about the first days, weeks, or months after you said yes to Jesus?
- 3) Some of us have a distinct "before / after" experience in our lives. If that's you, can you tell us about it?
- 4) Which of the questions in the spiritual inventory above were an easy yes? Was there a question you wish you could answer yes to?
- 5) How can we pray for you right now and throughout the week?