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**Seven Churches –  
Who or What Do They Represent?**

1. Themselves – 7 churches, nothing more
2. Seven *types* of churches
3. Seven church *ages*
4. ALL churches

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**Uniform Literary Pattern**

1. prefaced with a description of Jesus
2. directed to the 'angel' of the church
3. statement of intimate knowledge "I know..."
4. Commendation, Correction, and/or Condemnation

commendation = good  
 commendation + correction = bad  
 correction + condemnation = ugly

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**Uniform Literary Pattern**

**4. Commendation, Correction, and/or  
Condemnation**

commendation = good  
commendation + correction = bad  
correction + condemnation = ugly

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**Uniform Literary Pattern**

**5. Appeal to steadfastness**

*"Anyone with ears to hear must listen to the Spirit and understand what he is saying to the churches"*

**6. Promise of reward**

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Ephesus Smyrna Pergamum

**Bad – Good – Bad**

Thyatira

Good, Bad AND Ugly

Sardis Philadelphia Laodicea

**Ugly – Good – Ugly**

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**The Church at Philadelphia– the Church of Open Doors and Perseverance (Good)**

*Preface: from the one who is holy and true, the one who has the key of David. What he opens, no one can close; and what he closes, no one can open*

*Intimate knowledge: "I know all the things you do...You have little strength..."*

*Commendation: "yet you obeyed my word and did not deny me."*

*Correction: NONE*

*Condemnation: NONE*

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**The Church at Philadelphia– the Church of Open Doors and Perseverance (Good)**

*Reward: I will force those who belong to Satan's synagogue...to come and bow down at your feet. They will acknowledge that you are the ones I love. Because you have obeyed my command to persevere, I will protect you from the great time of testing that will come upon the whole world to test those who belong to this world. I am coming soon. Hold on to what you have, so that no one will take away your crown.*

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**The Church at Philadelphia– the Church of Open Doors and Perseverance (Good)**

*All who are victorious will become pillars in the Temple of my God, and they will never have to leave it. And I will write on them the name of my God, and they will be citizens in the city of my God—the new Jerusalem that comes down from heaven from my God. And I will also write on them my new name.*

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**The Church at Ephesus –  
a Church of Dangerous Preoccupations (BAD)**

Preface: *“from the one who holds the seven stars in his right hand, the one who walks among the seven gold lampstands”*

Intimate Knowledge: *“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. 3 You have patiently suffered for me without quitting.”*

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**The Church at Ephesus –  
a Church of Dangerous Preoccupations (BAD)**

Correction:

- 1. You’ve lost that lovin’ feelin’
- 2. Turn back & do the things you did at first

Condemnation: remove lampstand (church)

Reward: *“fruit from the tree of life in the paradise of God”*

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**The Church at Laodicea–  
the Church of Deadly Pride (UGLY)**

Preface: *from the one who is the Amen—the faithful and true witness, the beginning of God’s new creation:*

Intimate knowledge: *I know all the things you do, that you are neither hot nor cold. I wish that you were one or the other! You say, ‘I am rich. I have everything I want. I don’t need a thing!’ And you don’t realize that you are wretched and miserable and poor and blind and naked.*

Commendation: NONE

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**The Church at Laodicea—  
the Church of Deadly Pride (UGLY)**

*Correction: But since you are like lukewarm water, neither hot nor cold, I will spit you out of my mouth!*

*Condemnation: you are wretched and miserable and poor and blind and naked. So I advise you to buy gold from me—gold that has been purified by fire. Then you will be rich. Also buy white garments from me so you will not be shamed by your nakedness, and ointment for your eyes so you will be able to see. I correct and discipline everyone I love. So be diligent and turn from your indifference.*

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**The Church at Laodicea—  
the Church of Deadly Pride (UGLY)**

*Reward: If you hear my voice and open the door, I will come in, and we will share a meal together as friends. Those who are victorious will sit with me on my throne, just as I was victorious and sat with my Father on his throne.*

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**The Church at Thyatira—  
the Church of Diligent Perseverance  
(GOOD, BAD, and UGLY)**

*Preface: from the Son of God, whose eyes are like flames of fire, whose feet are like polished bronze:*

*Intimate knowledge: I know all the things you do.*

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**The Church at Thyatira—  
the Church of Diligent Perseverance  
(GOOD, BAD, and UGLY)**

*Commendation: I have seen your love, your faith, your service, and your patient endurance. And I can see your constant improvement in all these things.*

*Correction: You are permitting that woman—that Jezebel who calls herself a prophet—to lead my servants astray. She teaches them to commit sexual sin and to eat food offered to idols. <sup>21</sup> I gave her time to repent, but she does not want to turn away from her immorality.*

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**The Church at Thyatira—  
the Church of Diligent Perseverance  
(GOOD, BAD, and UGLY)**

*Condemnation: I will throw her on a bed of suffering, and those who commit adultery with her will suffer greatly unless they repent and turn away from her evil deeds. I will strike her children dead. Then all the churches will know that I am the one who searches out the thoughts and intentions of every person. And I will give to each of you whatever you deserve.*

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**The Church at Thyatira—  
the Church of Diligent Perseverance  
(GOOD, BAD, and UGLY)**

*Commendation Pt. 2: hold tightly to what you have until I come...obey me to the very end*

*Reward: To them I will give authority over all the nations. They will rule the nations with an iron rod and smash them like clay pots. They will have the same authority I received from my Father, and I will also give them the morning star!*

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