

Our First Love

Revelation 2:1-7

Revelation 2:1-2

“To the angel of the church in Ephesus write: ‘The words of him who holds the seven stars in his right hand, who walks among the seven golden lampstands. ² ‘I know your works, your toil and your patient endurance, and how you cannot bear with those who are evil, but have tested those who call themselves apostles and are not, and found them to be false.

Revelation 2:3-5

³ I know you are enduring patiently and bearing up for my name's sake, and you have not grown weary. ⁴ But I have this against you, that you have abandoned the love you had at first. ⁵ Remember therefore from where you have fallen; repent, and do the works you did at first. If not, I will come to you and remove your lampstand from its place, unless you repent.

Revelation 2:6-7

⁶ Yet this you have: you hate the works of the Nicolaitans, which I also hate. ⁷ He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches. To the one who conquers I will grant to eat of the tree of life, which is in the paradise of God.'

The Ephesian Church

‘I know your works, your toil and your patient endurance, and how you cannot bear with those who are evil, but have tested those who call themselves apostles...³ I know you are enduring patiently and bearing up for my name’s sake, and you have not grown weary.

The Problem

⁴ But I have this against you, that you have abandoned the love you had at first. (Rev 2:4)

They lost the love they had for Christ and each other, when they first came to believe.

What About You and Me?

What motivates your religious activity?

duty or obligation

self-interest

commitment to truth

or love for Christ and others?

Does Christ have your heart?

Your affections? Your desire?

The Importance of Love

¹ If I speak in the tongues of men and of angels, but have not love, I am a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal. ² And if I have prophetic powers, and understand all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have all faith, so as to remove mountains, but have not love, I am nothing. ³ If I give away all I have, and if I deliver up my body to be burned, but have not love, I gain nothing. - 1 Cor 13:1-3

The Importance of Love

³⁶ “Teacher, which is the great commandment in the Law?” ³⁷ And he said to him, “You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. ³⁸ This is the great and first commandment. ³⁹ And a second is like it: You shall love your neighbor as yourself. ⁴⁰ On these two commandments depend all the Law and the Prophets.”

—Mat 22:36-40

The Solution

⁵ **Remember** therefore from where you have fallen; **repent**, and **do** the works you did at first... (2:5)

Remember from where you have fallen.

Repent

loving other things

apathy

Do the works you did at first.

Ongoing Experiments

- ◉ Try to begin each day seeking God's Presence.
- ◉ Meditate on Scripture throughout the day.
- ◉ Take “mini-retreats” throughout your day.
- ◉ Develop an awareness of your desires or affections.