



Returning to our First Love

Revelation 2 :1-7 (ESV)

To the Church in Ephesus

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. 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. 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.’

1 John 5:4-5 (ESV)

4 *For everyone who has been born of God overcomes the world. And this is the victory that has overcome the world—our faith. ⁵ Who is it that overcomes the world except the one who believes that Jesus is the Son of God?*

I. Returning to our First Love

I. “Remembering” the start of a relationship rekindles first love!

- Remember what it was like to be lost.

- Remember what it was like to be found.
- Remember that laboring for God is never a substitute for a love of God.
- Remember that a love for God will always be seen in a love for others. (Matthew 22:37-39)

2. “Repentance” is the hardest step in returning to our First love.

- Our first love fades in the shadow of our idols and attitudes.

Religion can be an idol when it is motivated by obligation, not love.

(Matthew 24:12-13, John 13:35)

- Anything that draws us away from loving people will ultimately cost us our first love. (Romans 5:5)
- We must be intolerant of sin but tolerant of sinners and strugglers.
- We know we are drifting away from our first love when our lives are characterized more by contempt than compassion.

3. “Repeating” the works we did at first is the final step in recapturing our first love!

- Repeating the basic disciplines of the faith reignites our first love!