

## Regaining Your First Love

Revelation 2:1-5

### Faithfulness without love:

The Church in Ephesus was a faithful church. They rejected false doctrine (Rev 2:2), endured heavy persecution (vs. 3) and fought against sin/conforming to this world (vs.2). But is this all Jesus is asking for?

Jesus knows our hearts (John 2:24-25), and wants us to love Him (Deut 6:5, Matt 22:37).

- Our Lord did not let Peter continue on without challenging Peter's motivations (John 21:15-17) nor did He allow the Church in Ephesus to continue on with a cold heart without addressing them (Rev 2:1,2,5)

### Sure Signs that Your Love has Grown Cold:

1. Do you delight in anything more than Christ? (Deut 6:5, Matt 10:37-38)
2. Have you lost a desire to spend time in the word and prayer? (1 Thess 5:17, Psalm 119:9,11)
3. Is there any sin in your life that you aren't dealing with? We grieve the Holy Spirit this way (Eph 4:30, Gal 5:19-20)

### Remember:

The first step to regaining our love for Christ is to remember the love and zeal we once had in light of the work He has done for us.

Uncomfortable situations can cause our love to diminish when we try to seek our own comfort instead of love for God.

Sin is deceitful and pulls us away without even knowing it, (Heb 3:12-14). The first step the prodigal son took before returning to his father is remembering what life was like at his father's house. (Luke 15:17)

"Forgetfulness is frequently the cause of spiritual decline" - John MacArthur

### Repent:

This is a *turning away* from the things you are doing and a *turning back* to the Lord. We *remember* the kindness and patience of God with us which should cause us to repent of the sin we are committing (Romans 2:4). This repentance is a gift from God, (2 Timothy 2:23-26, Acts 11:18). If you are struggling to have true repentance, remember how good God is and beg Him for a repentant heart

### Return:

Return to the deeds you did at first (Rev 2:5) These were not *different* works than they had been doing. Jesus commended them for all of the good they had been engaged in. This was a call to return to the love they had while doing them! (1 Cor 13:1-3), The Ephesian church was no stranger to what love looked like. Love was mentioned over 20 times in the letter written to the Ephesians and Paul's prayer for them was that they would be rooted and grounded in love. (Eph 3:14-19) By doing this they (and us) would be filled with the Spirit, which is a command (Eph 5:18).

**Worship:** There is a Fountain (Citizens)

As the Deer (Various Artists)

**Service Times:** Sundays: Revelation Class 4/Prayer 4:30/Church 5:30; Tuesdays: (In-Home) Bible Study: Women 6:30/Men 6:30 & 7; Thursdays: Prayer 6:20/Church 7

If we don't pursue this, Jesus will **Remove** our lamp stand. This is not our salvation (Rom 8:1, Ephesians 1:13-14) but our *witness*. No one is above this temptation. We are called to be on guard because we will fall (just like the ephesian church did) if we do not take heed.

It is too late for the ephesian church, but it is not too late for us! **Remember, Repent and Return** to the love you had, so Jesus doesn't **Remove** our witness!