

FIRST LOVE

Letter to the Church at Ephesus (Revelation 2:1-7)

Key Verse

Nevertheless I have *somewhat* against thee, because thou hast left thy first love. (Revelation 2:4)

The Divine Author

- He is All-Powerful:

“The One Who holds the seven stars in His right hand”

- He is All-Knowing:

“Who walks in the midst of the seven golden candlesticks”

I. Christ’s Commendation of the church.

A. Their Purity of Doctrine

I know thy works, and thy labour, and thy patience, and how thou canst not bear them which are evil: and thou hast tried them which say they are apostles, and are not, and hast found them liars: (Revelation 2:2)

B. Their Faithfulness of Service

And hast borne, and hast patience, and for my name’s sake hast labored, and hast not fainted. (Revelation 2:3)

C. Their Hatred for Sin

But this thou hast, that thou hatest the deeds of the Nicolaitans, which I also hate. (Revelation 2:6)

- The Nicolaitans advocated accomodation to pagan society by eating meat offered to idols and engaging in sexual immorality.

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II. Christ's Rebuke to the church.

Nevertheless I have *somewhat* against thee, because thou hast left thy first love. (Revelation 2:4)

- **“Left”**: leave off, pass over, set aside; be distracted by something else
- **“First Love”**: refers to the *priority* of our love for God (see Luke 14:26, 27, 33)

Consider:

- *Do I love God preeminently (above other people, my own self, possessions, etc)?*
- *How is my love for God demonstrated?*
- *In what specific ways have I left my first love for God?*

III. Christ's Call to Repentance.

Remember therefore from whence thou art fallen, and repent, and do the first works; or else I will come unto thee quickly, and will remove thy candlestick out of his place, except thou repent. (Revelation 2:5)

A. Remember from where you have fallen.

- Repentance always starts with *remembering* the specific areas where we have fallen short of first love for God.

B. Repent and do the first works.

- Repentance means “to perceive afterwards.”
- Everything we do must flow out of a genuine, personal, growing relationship with God.

Consider:

- *How can I develop a personal, intimate relationship with God?*

IV. Christ's Promised Reward to Overcomers.

To him that overcometh will I give to eat of the tree of life, which is in the midst of the paradise of God. (Revelation 2:7)

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