

Have You Left Your First Love?

Rev 2:1-7



1“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.



4 But I have this against you, that **you have abandoned the love you had at first.**



1“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.**

Stars = pastors

Lampstands = churches

Rev 1:20



25 ...**Christ loved the church** and gave himself up for her, **26** that he might sanctify her, having cleansed her by the washing of water with the word, **27** so that he might present the church to himself in splendor, without spot or wrinkle or any such thing, that she might be holy and without blemish.

Eph 5:25-27



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.'





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What is the reason why we lost our first love?



Subtle negligence



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;**



“Go and proclaim in the hearing of Jerusalem,
Thus says the LORD,
**“I remember the devotion of your youth,
your love as a bride,**
how you followed me in the wilderness,
in a land not sown.

Jer 2:2



Subtle negligence

Overwhelmed by busyness



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**.



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6 Yet this you have: **you hate the works of the Nicolaitans**, which I also hate.

[see Rev 2:14-15]



Subtle negligence

Overwhelmed by busyness

Substituted by good things



4 But I have this against you, that you have abandoned the love you had at first.



1If 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.**

1 Cor 13:1-3



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



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.**”

Matt 22:37-39



34 A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another: just as I have loved you, you also are to love one another. **35** **By this all people will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another.”**

John 13:34,35

“Loving one another is the indisputable mark of true disciples”



How to restore our first love?



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.



REMEMBER

REPENT

RETURN

