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3 November 2013

Message 1 of 7

**Learning to Love Again**

***Revelation 2:1-7***

**Introduction**

**I. Opening \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (1)**

To the “Angel” of the Church in Ephesus

From Jesus Who Cares for and Walks with the Church

**II. Encouraging \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (2-3, 6)**

He knows our deeds.

**III. Cautionary \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (4-5)**

 Remember

 Repent

 Redo

**IV. Closing \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (7)**

**Conclusion and Application**

**Main Idea: In order to restore our first love, we must remember, repent, and redo.**

**Personal Application**

1. What do I need to remember?
2. What do I need to repent of?
3. What do I need to do again—or perhaps begin to do for the very first time—to really love Jesus as my first and foremost love?

**Thought Questions for Home Group**

1. Read through Revelation 2:1-7.
2. What does Jesus both commend and reprimand the Ephesians for?

Commendations (2-3):

* Hard work (“doers, not just talkers”)
* Patient endurance (not just following the newest idea)
* Intolerance of evil people (conducted church discipline)
* Tested the claims of false apostles (didn’t hold them in high regard)
* Didn’t quit (were tireless without growing weary)
* Hate for the Nicolaitans—following *Nike*, god of victory
* Nicolaitans possibly saw only prosperity and victory for believers (6)

Reprimands (4-5):

* Lost love for Christ that they had as new believers
	+ How many people shared the gospel with as a new believer?
	+ How much time did you read Scripture as a new believer?
* Lost love for one another that they had as new believers
* They have *fallen* spiritually when they likely thought they had “risen”
1. What might He commend and reprimand CIC for?

Strengths: faith (perseverance) during slow times in attendance and offering, care for our own people and others, preaching the Word

Reprimands: Do you really care for hurting people? Do you share with the lost?

1. What does Jesus tell us to do in order to restore our first love (5)?

*Remember* your obedience as a new Christian and how you loved Christ

*Repent* from sins of complacency and neglecting to honor Christ

*Redo* the practices you did as a new Christian

1. Where are you in terms of Jesus truly being your first love?

I love him but still lack an evangelistic lifestyle

1. What practical and specific things might you do to help you more fully love Jesus?

Share the gospel with our SBC helpers