

# First Love: Remember, Repent, Do (Love)

October 12, 2025 | *Revelation 2:1-7*

## FIRST LOVE

REMEMBER • REPENT • DO (LOVE)

REVELATION 2:1-7

### Observation: What is happening here?

- **v. 1:** Christ addresses the angel (messenger/pastor) of Ephesus. Christ identifies Himself as the One who holds the seven stars and walks among the seven golden lampstands. This is to show Christ's authority and presence with the churches.
- **vv. 2-3, 6:** Ephesus was praised for hard work, endurance, refusal to tolerate evil, the testing of false apostles, perseverance, and hatred of the deeds of the Nicolaitans. In other words, Ephesus did good by knowing the truth and protecting it.
- **v. 4:** Despite all the praise, Christ rebukes the church by saying that the church has left its first love. This is a deviation from when the Apostle Paul commended Ephesus for its "*faith and love*" (see Ephesians 1:15-16)
- **v. 5:** Christ calls the church to **remember** its former devotion, **repent** (change its mind) and **do** the first works (to love God and others). Christ gives a clear warning that refusal will lead to removal of the lampstand (loss of the church's witness).
- **v. 7:** This letter ends with how the overcomer will receive access to the tree of life in the paradise of God.
- **Context note:** The Nicolaitans normalized compromise with idolatry and sexual immorality (see Numbers 25:1-3; 31:16). Jesus hates the deeds but not the people.
- **Scriptures:** *Revelation 2:1-7; Jeremiah 2:2-5; John 14:15; 1 John 4:19-21.*

**Ontario Community Church:** Encouraging, Equipping and Engaging lives for Christ.  
John 6:47 (ESV) "*Truly, truly, I say to you, whoever believes has eternal life.*"

## **Interpretation: What can we learn?**

### **Truth without love cannot sustain witness**

- Ephesus focused on truth and accuracy, yet Christ rebuked the church for abandoning its first love. This first love is loving Christ and others.
- A love for Christ flows to others. We need love and truth!
- **Scriptures:** *Revelation 2:2-4; Ephesians 1:15-16; John 13:34-35; John 14:15; 1 John 4:19-21.*

### **We are cared for and accountable to Christ**

- Christ protects us and calls for us to shine our light (lampstands) bright.
- Just as an individual can lose their way, so too can a church.
- Losing a lampstand means the loss of witness. A church can die this way.
- **Scriptures:** *Revelation 1:20; Revelation 2:1; Revelation 2:5-6; Revelation 2:14-15; Numbers 25:1-3; Numbers 31:16; Ephesians 4:15.*

### **When we drift: remember, repent, do the first works**

- Remember former devotion to Christ, Repent (change your mind), and Do (love God and others as before).
- This is applicable to individuals or churches that have lost this first love.
- **Scriptures:** *Revelation 2:5; Jeremiah 2:2-5; Mark 4:14-20; John 14:15.*

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## **Application: How should we live?**

### **Keep your first love for Jesus and others**

- Love God and others (great commandment); keep His Word in your heart.
- Have a childlike awe and wonder of Christ. (Consider Jeremiah 2:2-5)
- Let your love be visible in word and deed.
- **Scriptures:** *Matthew 22:37-39; Matthew 18:3; Jeremiah 2:2-5; John 14:15; 1 John 4:19-21; Revelation 2:4-5.*

### **From love flows truth and witness**

- God loved us first. We are saved by this love. Let us love like Christ.
- Speak the truth in love, pursue unity, and bear fruit. Do good in His Name!
- Live as an ambassador: share the gospel, invite, and testify to His Love.
- **Scriptures:** *John 15:5, 8; Ephesians 4:15; 2 Corinthians 5:20; Acts 1:8; Matthew 5:16; John 13:34-35; Revelation 2:5.*

### **Guard the lampstand with truth and love**

- Protect your (personal) and the church's (corporate) testimony by living and loving like Christ and the truth of the Word.
- Do not let the world infiltrate your heart or our fellowship. Instead influence the world for Christ.
- Hate the sin, not the sinner. Refuse compromise. Practice grace.
- **Scriptures:** *Revelation 2:2; Revelation 2:6; Revelation 2:14-15; Mark 4:14-20; Romans 12:2; John 17:15-17; 1 Timothy 2:1-2; Ephesians 4:15; 1 John 2:15-17.*

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