

What does it mean for us to love? What does it mean for us to remember our first love? In last Sunday's passage of Revelation 2:1-7, Jesus charges them with this: that they have abandoned the love they once had. We know that this was not always the case. In Paul's earlier letter to the church in Ephesus, he writes of the love that they had towards all God's people. But Jesus charges the church with the abandonment of the love that they were once known for. He challenges them to remember, repent, and to redo the works they did at first.

This lack of love is a problem that many modern-day churches face as well. Like the church of Ephesus, we could be known for our works, for our patience and endurance, and for our refusal to compromise with anything that is evil—but if we have no love in our hearts for God and His people, we have nothing.

Do we have love in our hearts? Do we remember our first love, Jesus? How are we loving His people? These are difficult questions to answer because love can be seen as an abstract concept and one that is hard to grasp. But Jesus challenges the church of Ephesus to “remember, repent, and redo.”

We remember—that we are deeply and firstly loved by God. Everything that we do comes out of that love from Him. We repent—we ask God to show and to teach us what love is when we realize we have none. And we re-do—we willingly do the works that we did at first, the actions and deeds that showed the people we love how much they mean to us, even if it came at a cost to ourselves. That is how we can love.

1. Love can often be an abstract concept. It is something that is hard to grasp, and difficult to define. In avoiding an abstract discussion about God's love for us, share firstly about some of the things that make you feel loved. Was there a time where you felt particularly loved (by your friends, family etc.), and how do you show your love to others?
2. What are some of the elements that you believe defines a loving relationship (e.g. spending time with that person, thinking about him / her often, the nature of intimacy between you etc.)? How do you think those elements applies to your relationship with God? What comes to mind when you think about spiritual intimacy, or what do you think that should look like?
3. What would love have you do today? What opportunities has the Lord given you to show love to others? Share an example of how you can go out of your way for someone in your life and follow up with each other next week on whether you actually did it or not!