

## LOSING ONE'S FIRST LOVE

Revelation 2:4

(Not entirely original with me)

**Introduction:** Jesus always tried to say as much good about people as He could and with the Church of Ephesus He said some positive things, but He just had to point out a weakness the Church had, "they had left their first love." He added a warning, "...*Repent or else I will come unto thee quickly and remove the candlestick out of His place...*" Sadly, the Church of Ephesus was not and has not been the only group of Christians who have left off loving Jesus Christ supremely. Many of today's Christians do the same thing.

### I. WHAT THE FIRST LOVE OF THE CHRISTIAN IS

1. First love involves sincere devotion of one's heart to God, including confidence and thankfulness.
2. First love reveals itself in an intense interest in God's Word. As one is interested in his/her email and text messaging, so the Christian whose first love is the Lord Jesus is interested in God's Word.
3. First love will show itself in an intense care and love for the things of God's House.
  - Attendance with the interest in worshipping, participation from the heart and not just habit.
4. First love is causes a cheerful obedience and a dread/fear of committing sin.
5. First love shows a great zeal for the cause and honor of God.
  - With great effort one will refrain from whatever might dishonor God.
  - Full of care if anything threatens to go wrong.
6. First love causes one deny self for God and for the lost.
  - Such people can always be counted on to be ready to do whatever is needed with much happiness.
7. First love causes one to be engrossed and absorbed in spiritual matters and will put worldly things aside.
8. First love causes a love for the lost and brings a great desire to see sinners saved.
9. First love causes one to care about his/her enemies in a loving, caring manner.
10. First love causes one to be devoted to the Lord Jesus Christ and not to him/herself, being full of intense interest for others rather than one's self.

### II. SIGNS OF ONE HAVING LEFT HIS/HER FIRST LOVE

1. One becomes very much engrossed in worldly matters once again.
2. One's attitude about service to the Lord changes from out of love to one of duty.
3. One begins to hold God's Word, the Lord's Day and his/her faith very loosely, doing only that which eases the conscience.
4. When one has left his/her first love, he/she is content to just be "comfortable" than be reinstated in fellowship with the Lord Jesus to have power and a holy heart.
5. When one's first love is lost, there is an obvious loss of interest in religious matters.
  - Where and what interests a person most reveals where his/her heart truly is.
6. When one has left his/her first love, he/she goes back into a worldly attitude and habits.
  - Clothing, vocabulary, jewelry, entertainment, etc.
7. When one has left his/her first love, he/she becomes more interested in other things than the Bible and prayer.

#### **IV. SOME CONSEQUENCES OF LOSING ONE'S FIRST LOVE**

1. One will be brought back again under the domination of old sins and the world.  
- Grace will decline and sin will rise and take back over.
2. One will have a sense of guilt and in the place where there was once a peace, there will be the feeling of condemnation and loss of acceptance an favor of God.
3. One will cease to be strong in prayer and will lose his/her fellowship with the Lord God.
4. One will create many things to constantly delude him/herself into thinking/feeling that all is alright.
5. The consequence of losing one's first love is disastrous.

#### **CONCLUSION:**

1. Those who have left their fist love are a great stumbling block to all who know them.
2. Those who have left their first love are most abominable to God for God abhors hypocrisy and then, who doesn't?
3. It is a most dangerous state because it tends to increase, it is insulting to God and it abuses and grieves the Holy Spirit.
4. So, Christian, WHAT IS YOUR STANDING RIGHT NOW? Is Jesus Christ your FIRST love or is there somebody, something else?
5. You may not be aware that you have left your first love, but others around you can see that you have. Take a good look!
6. How is it with you? Where are you?