

Have We Left Our First Love?

Rev. 2:1-7

Introduction: A brief history of the leadership of this church.

1. Acts 18:19 _____, _____, _____

2. Acts 18:24 _____

3. Acts 19:1-10 _____

4. Acts 20:17-28 _____

5. Eph. 6:21 _____

6. I Tim. 1:3 _____

7. II Tim. 4:12, 21 _____

8. II Tim. 4:19 _____

9. II Tim. 4:19 _____

10. Historic record _____

11. John's Gospel _____

12. Revelation _____

I. The _____ in Jesus Message – vs. 2-3, 6

A. It was a _____ church.

B. It was a _____ church.

C. It was a _____ church.

D. It was a _____ church.

E. It was a _____ church.

I. The _____ in Jesus' Message – vs. 4.

A. The _____ of this criticism.

B. The _____ of Jesus' message.

C. The _____ of the love they had at first.

D. An attempt to _____ that love.

1. We want to _____ the loved one.

2. We want to _____ with the loved one.

3. We want to _____ the loved one.

4. We want to _____ from the loved one.

5. We want to show _____ to the loved one.

6. We want to _____ the loved one

7. We want to _____ up for the loved one.

8. We want to _____ the loved one.

9. We want to give _____ to the loved one.

10. _____

III. The Correction In Jesus Message – vs. 5

A. Keep on _____ from where you have fallen.

B. Keep on _____ of your sin.

C. Keep on _____ the work you did at first.

Twelve Evidences That I Have Left My "First Love" For The Lord

"Nevertheless I have somewhat against thee, because thou hast left thy first love" (Revelation 2:4).

1. When my delight in the Lord is no longer as great as my delight in someone else, I have lost my "first love."

"And thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart..." (Mark 12:30).

2. When my soul does not long for times of rich fellowship in God's Word or in prayer, I have left my "first love."

"And thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy...soul..." (Mark 12:30).

3. When my thoughts during leisure moments do not reflect upon the Lord, I have left my "first love."

*"And thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy ...mind..." (Mark 12:30).
"...God is not in all his thoughts" (Psalm 10:4).*

4. When I claim to be "only human," and when I easily give in to those things which I know displease the Lord, I have left my "first love."

*"And thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy...strength..." (Mark 12:30).
"If ye keep my commandments, ye shall abide in my love..." (John 15:10).
"If ye love me, keep my commandments" (John 14:15).*

5. When I do not willingly and cheerfully give to God's work or to the needs of others, I have left my "first love."

"But whoso hath this world's good, and seeth his brother have need, and shutteth up his bowels of compassion from him, how dwelleth the love of God in him?" (1 John 3:17).

6. When I cease to treat every Christian as I would the Lord, I have left my "first love."

*"...Inasmuch as ye have done it unto one of the least of these my brethren, ye have done it unto me" (Matthew 25:40).
"A new commandment I give unto you,*

That ye love one another; as I have loved you..." (John 13:34).

7. When I view the commands of Christ as restriction to my happiness rather than expressions of His love, I have left my "first love."

"He that hath my commandments, and keepeth them, he it is that loveth me: and he that loveth me shall be loved of my Father, and I will love him, and will manifest myself to him" (John 14:21).

8. When I inwardly strive for the acclaim of this world rather than the approval of the Lord, I have left my "first love."

*"Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world. If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him" (1 John 2:15).
"If ye were of the world, the world would love his own: but because ye are not of the world, but I have chosen you out of the world, therefore the world hateth you" (John 15:19).*

9. When I fail to make Christ or His Words known because I fear rejection, I have left my "first love."

"Remember the word that I said unto you, The servant is not greater than his lord. If they have persecuted me, they will also persecute you..." (John 15:20).

10. When I refuse to give up an activity which I know is offending a weaker brother, I have left my "first love."

"But if thy brother be grieved with thy meat, now walkest thou not charitably..." (Romans 14:15).

11. When I become complacent to sinful conditions around me, I have left my "first love."

"And because iniquity shall abound, the love of many shall wax cold" (Matthew 24:12).

12. When I am unable to forgive another for offending me, I have left my "first love."

"If a man say, I love God, and hateth his brother, he is a liar..." (1 John 4:20).