

## Revelation 2:4-5 Remembering Our First Love

The Church of Ephesus was one to be admired in many ways. They had a lot of things going for them. None of the seven churches had as many commendations as Ephesus, yet Ephesus was missing one essential thing. The church was lacking love, and if our marriages lack love, we can follow the same advice that Jesus gave to them.

Topics- Love, marriage

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\*\*Intro Music (video WITH sound)

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Revelation 2:1-7

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John MacArthur said, "There are those churches known for their stand on sound doctrine but without love.

- There are those churches known for their love without sound doctrine.
- There are those churches that fight against evil.
- There are those churches that tolerate evil.
- There are those churches that are spiritually alive and suffer for their testimony.
- There are those churches that are spiritually dead and suffer nothing because no one persecutes a dead church.
- There are those churches that think they have very little but they have a lot and those who think they have a lot and have nothing."

\*\*7 Letter Chart

Washington State Law

RCW 9.73.020 — Opening sealed letter.

RCW 9A.56.370 — Mail Theft.

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\*\*Luther- "Let the wife make her husband glad to come home, and let him make her sorry to see him leave."

Ephesians 5:22-33

Ephesians 5:32 NKJV — This is a great mystery, but I speak concerning Christ and the church.

\*\*Spurgeon- “If a man does not make his wife happy, I don’t care what he says about his religion; it is worth nothing. A man’s life at home is the real test of his piety.”

\*\*Moody “If I wanted to find out whether a man was a real Christian, I would not go to his pastor, I would go and ask his wife... If a man doesn’t treat his wife right, I don’t want to hear him talk about Christianity.”

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What is love?

-Eros = a passionate desire, intense attraction

-Phileo = a deep, heartfelt friendship, warmth, and affection

-Storge = a natural, unforced, and steadfast love (Aka “family love”)

-Agape = the highest, unconditional, and selfless love, characterized by a deep, benevolent will for the good of another that is expressed through giving and sacrifice, rather than emotion.

\*\*Elliot- “The key to marriage is not romance but covenant... Marriage is a covenant, not a contract. Contracts can be broken when one party fails; a covenant is a vow before God that binds even when feelings waver.”

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“Nevertheless I have this against you”

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A confession...

“But I...”

-Work long hours, provide for the family, take care of the lawn, fix the house...

-Cook, clean, plan, watch the kids, do the laundry...

-“Nevertheless...”

We can do all the right THINGS and still be completely loveless.

1 Corinthians 10:23 NKJV — All things are lawful for me, but not all things are helpful; all things are lawful for me, but not all things edify.

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“that you have LEFT your...”

-It's not lost, you left it.

-No room to blame shift

Hebrews 2:1 NKJV — Therefore we must give the more earnest heed to the things we have heard, lest we drift away.

“Romance becomes routine.”

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“Your first love”

\*\*Luther- “The Christian is supposed to love his neighbor, and since his wife is his nearest neighbor, she should be his deepest love.”

Newlywed Terms:

- Always, Nobody, Never, Everything
- I will ALWAYS love you.
- There is NOBODY on earth I would rather be with.
- I will NEVER give up on you.
- You are my EVERYTHING

Married 2+ Years Terms:

- Always, Nobody, Never, Everything
- You ALWAYS leave the freezer door open
- NOBODY around here knows how to clean up after themselves
- You NEVER pick up your laundry
- I have to do EVERYTHING around here.

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“Love is like a friendship caught on fire... As love grows older, our hearts mature and our love becomes as coals, deep-burning and unquenchable.”

-Bruce Lee

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THREE STEPS TO RESTORING LOVE:

-1)“REMEMBER therefore from where you have fallen..”

\*\*“Memory is the handmaid of hope.” Spurgeon

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THREE STEPS TO RESTORING LOVE:

- 1)“REMEMBER therefore from where you have fallen..”
- 2)“REPENT”

Repent = metanoēō(μετανοέω); to change one's mind

We cannot change our hearts, hearts have a mind of their own, but we can change our minds and pray that our hearts follow.

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Jeremiah 17:9 — “The heart is deceitful above all things, And desperately wicked; Who can know it?”

**\*\*It's a trap!**

1 Corinthians 13:7 NKJV — [Agape love] bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.

-Concerning your spouse...

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THREE STEPS TO RESTORING LOVE:

- 1) “REMEMBER therefore from where you have fallen..”
- 2) “REPENT”
- 3) “DO the FIRST works”

THREE STEPS TO RESTORING LOVE:

- 1) REMEMBER
- 2) REPENT
- 3) REDO

“It is easier to DO your way into feeling, than to FEEL your way into doing.”

What are the first works?

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“or else”

\*Spurgeon-“A man who does not love his wife as he loves himself is failing in one of the plainest duties of Scripture.”

**\*\*Torrey\*** -You cannot be right with God and wrong with your wife.

1 Peter 3:7 — Husbands, likewise, dwell with them with understanding, giving honor to the wife, as to the weaker vessel, and as being heirs together of the grace of life, that your prayers may not be hindered.

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Lovelessness is sin.

Remember, the Commandments of God are also the enablements of God. He will never command us to do that which he will not give us the power to do.

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Overcomes = nikaō(νικάω) to conquer, overcome, prevail, get the victory; to carry off the victory, come off victorious

-If there is a promise to those who conquer, then there must be a battle to be fought.

-Will you fight?

Great faiths and great marriages have this in common, those who have them are very committed and intentional about maintaining them.

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Remember

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Prone to wander, Lord I feel it  
Prone to leave the God I love  
Here's my heart, oh take and seal it  
Seal it for Thy courts above

\*\*Robinson- "Madam, I am the poor unhappy man who wrote that hymn many years ago, and I would give a thousand worlds, if I had them, to enjoy the feelings I then had!"