

A CHRISTIAN LEAVING HIS/HER FIRST LOVE

Revelation 2:4

(Not entirely original with me)

Introduction: Jesus had compliments and criticism about seven Churches as He preached to John the sermon called the "Revelation." Jesus told the Church of Ephesus that they had left their first love, which would be Him and the Gospel, therefore they had left their purpose of being a Church. Ephesus is not the only Church that has left their first love, for today there are countless Christians, and Churches that have also done the same thing, they have left their first love as well and that is having Jesus first in their lives and doing what the Holy Spirit equipped them to do.

I. JUST WHEN CAN IT BE SAID THAT A CHRISTIAN HAS LEFT HIS/HER FIRST LOVE?

1. After leaving one's first love, there is neglect of God and worship.
 - There is the neglect of secret prayer.
 - There is neglect of attending worship services.
2. When one leaves his/her first love, God's Word will be neglected.
 - Before leaving his/her first love, there was a love for God's Word and his/her daily life was built around the devotion he/she has read for that day.
 - After leaving one's first love, the Word of God is replaced with the newspaper, a magazine, television programs, and other means of using one's time.
 - Business is more important than God or His Word.
3. When one leaves his/her first love, there is no automatic, spontaneous avoiding bad, sinful habits.
 - There is little, if any restraint upon not doing those things which living a Christian life as God wants avoids.
4. When Jesus and the Gospel are one's first love, he/she is God-minded but when one has lost his/her first love, he/she becomes world-minded.
 - A person who has lost his/her first love is like a dog that returns to its own vomit.
5. When one leaves his/her first love, there is no concern for the lost.
 - There is no spirit of universal forgiveness - there must be "proof" that one is sincere before forgiveness is given, if then.
 - There is an attitude of ill-will and lack of love.
 - there is irritability, uncharitableness, fussing and bickering.
 - He/she will always have an excuse for his/her non-Christian actions/attitude.
 - There is no more sympathy nor peace.

II. HOW DOES A CHRISTIAN LOSE HIS/HER FIRST LOVE?

1. Satan and his sly, seductive skills is usually the reason Christians lose their first love.
 - Remember Eve? Satan tempted her in the area of her normal appetite.
 - Satan kept at her until she listened and decided to try what he suggested.
2. Satan's method is to tempt a person in the area that he/she is the weakest, the area where the person's interest lies, in his/her human nature, not an area of disinterest.

III. THE CONSEQUENCES OF LOSING ONE'S FIRST LOVE

1. Those who take the first step in losing their first love know it.
 - They know when they have neglected God's Word.
 - They know when they don't pray as they once did.
 - They continue to serve the Lord, but not as freely as they once did.
 - They are not as comfortable around the things of the Lord as they once were.
2. Those who lose their first love fall into great doubts as to their relationship with the Lord.
 - When the relationship with the Lord was as it should be, there was no question, no uncomfortable feeling.
3. Those who lose their first love have the attitude of self-condemnation.
 - They know that things are not right between them and the Lord Jesus and they blame themselves and the sins they have been committing.
4. Those who lose their first love do not pray from their hearts any longer.
 - There is no emotion in their prayers.
 - They are sluggish in their prayers when they do pray.
5. Those who lose their first love also lose the interest of the spiritual truths they had built their lives upon.
 - Many of the truths become just "maybe's" or theories.
 - Like a wife or husband who takes interest in another man or woman, there is no joy in the present relationship, no peace of mind, no "oneness" so it is with one who loses his/her first love, the Lord Jesus Christ.

CONCLUSION:

1. Have YOU ever had this first love with the Lord Jesus Christ?
2. Do YOU have the same spirit, love, attitude now that you had when you first loved the Lord Jesus Christ?
3. Are YOU still professing to love the Lord Jesus above all else, yet your first love is gone?
4. Do YOU want to come back to the Lord Jesus and regain that first love that you once had?
 - Coming back to Him with a humble, confessing heart?
5. What has Jesus ever done to any Christian that would cause him/her to leave the Lord Jesus in the first place?
6. Perhaps YOU have never come to the Lord Jesus ever. NOW is the accepted time, Jesus is patiently waiting for you to accept Him and let Him become your first love.