

NOT NUMBER ONE ANYMORE

Revelation 2:4

(Not entirely original with me)

Introduction: For the Christian there is no question as to where his/her priorities are supposed to be. The Lord Jesus Christ should be "number one" in every believer's life in all areas. For a while the new believer thinks of nothing but the Lord and God's Word, attending Church services, and especially telling others about what Jesus means to him/her. However, sadly, for too many Christians, Jesus isn't first in their lives anymore. As the Bible says, "*...they have left their first love...*"

I. JUST WHEN IS JESUS NO LONGER NUMBER ONE ANYMORE?

1. When the believer begins to neglect God, worship and his/her prayer.
 - Anytime a believer is absent from worship often he/she has allowed something else to take the Lord's place in priorities.
2. When Jesus is no longer number one in a person's life, there will be a neglect in reading God's Word.
 - There was a time when the believer had a daily Bible reading system/program but now it is days perhaps weeks between readings of God's Word.
 - Other things such as television, magazines, newspapers have taken Jesus' number one place.
 - When Jesus is number one in a Christian's life, he/she doesn't have to be encouraged to attend worship for he/she will be eager to attend and eager to find something to do for the Lord.
3. When Jesus is no longer number one in a person's life, there is no deliberate, preventative measures taken to prevent returning to sinful and evil habits and actions.
 - There just isn't enough love anymore to restrain one from going back into a sinful life.
4. When Jesus is number one in a person's life, his/her mind is focused on "what would Jesus do" but when Jesus is no longer number one, one's thoughts are on worldly things and he/she is quickly enslaved once again by sin.
 - When Jesus is number one, there is an energy for God and the Gospel for one's heart is there but when Jesus is no longer number one, all zeal, energy, excitement seems to have died out.
5. When Jesus is no longer number one in a person's life, there isn't any real love for the lost anymore for the love that Jesus has just isn't there in that person's heart anymore.
 - There is no spirit of universal forgiveness and one wants "proof" that one is sorry for what he/she did that brought hurt.
 - When one's love for Jesus has weakened, that person's heart becomes impatient, short-tempered and argumentative.
 - One will not be quick to forgive and will seem to look for reasons to get his/her feelings hurt.
 - Where Jesus is still first in one's life, there will be peace and sympathy, gratitude, love and trust in the Lord Jesus.

II. HOW DOES JESUS LOSE HIS PLACE AS BEING NUMBER ONE?

1. No doubt the believer isn't aware of the gradual loss of Jesus no longer being number one in his/her life.
2. Satan is very good at his seductive methods and has an unlimited ways so that no Christian can totally escape his assault. He is very clever and invisible as he draws the believer away from the Lord.
 - It wasn't all at once, or suddenly, or out of the blue that Satan drew Adam and Eve away from God.
 - Remember there was conversation first, then gently insinuations against God until finally Eve submitted to Satan's temptation.

- Satan tempts young men and women into thinking that they need to do whatever it takes to "make their mark in the world," "to be somebody."
 - Satan tempts adult believers into thinking that money is the answer to all their problems, their needs and it will only be for a little while that they have to "adjust" their religious life.
 - Satan tempts believers in other ways, for each believer Satan has his "special" temptations that he uses that are different from his tempting others. He specializes!
3. Before the believer knows it he/she has been drawn away from living his/her life concentrated upon the Lord Jesus and faithfully attending worship, studying God's Word and a daily prayer life.
- Jesus is no longer number one in that person's life anymore.

III. WHAT ARE THE CONSEQUENCES OF JESUS NOT BEING NUMBER ONE ANYMORE?

1. When Jesus is no longer number one in a believer's life, they come to know it.
 - They realize they have neglected their Bible readings, prayer and Church attendance.
 - There is a sensation that "something just isn't right."
 - They attend services only when there is some special reason, the same with reading their Bible and in prayer, they pray ONLY when there is some special favor they want from God.
2. When Jesus is no longer number one in a believer's life, there are doubts in that person's mind that just maybe he/she was never saved in the first place. Doubts come in, hope goes out and life seems to be useless for there is no goal, no vision anymore.
3. When Jesus is no longer number one in a believer's life, he/she begins to condemn his/her life being so cast down, sad and empty.
4. When Jesus is no longer number one in a believer's life, he/she has lost all interest in prayer except in some emergency. There just isn't the same care for others as he/she once had, therefore no desire to pray for them.
5. When Jesus is no longer number one in a believer's life, he/she no longer grasps the truths of God's Word and even if he/she reads it again, there just isn't any life or meaning to it anymore.
6. Being a Christian is the same as being married to Jesus. What happens when one of a married couple becomes unfaithful to the other? What happens when one of a married couple loses interest in his/her marriage partner?
 - The same thing happens when a believer when Jesus is no longer number one in his/her life.

CONCLUSION:

1. Has Jesus Christ ever had first place in YOUR life?
2. Is Jesus Christ still in first place in YOUR life?
3. Do you still act like Jesus is in first place in YOUR life, but He really isn't?
4. If Jesus is no longer first in YOUR life, YOU need to get things right with Him and lay everything before Him and ask forgiveness.
5. If Jesus is no longer first in YOUR life, why isn't He? What reason do YOU have for Him not being first in your life? Has He been unfaithful? Has He mistreated YOU? Has He hurt YOUR feelings?
6. If Jesus is no longer first in your life, He says to you: **"..Come now, and let us reason together.."**
7. Jesus died for YOU, has given you eternal life. What more can He do?