

Your First Love (1/19/25)

Discussion Questions

Summary: In the first of Jesus' seven letters to His church we see the pattern that will repeat in all the letters: an introduction of Jesus, an affirmation of the church, a confrontation of the church's sin and an exhortation to persevere and overcome. Ephesus was one of the most fruitful and prominent early churches (Acts 19:10), but fifty years later they had "abandoned [their] first love." As we begin this series together let's invite the Holy Spirit to confront *our* complacency and call us back to our original joy and devotion to King Jesus!

"John to the seven churches that are in Asia: Grace to you and peace from him who is and who was and who is to come, and from the seven spirits who are before his throne, and from Jesus Christ the faithful witness, the firstborn of the dead, and the ruler of kings on earth. To him who loves us and has freed us from our sins by his blood..." John 1:4-5

Be Encouraged:

- Jesus is With us (v. 1-2a, 4-5)
- Jesus Sees us and protects us (v. 1-2)
- Jesus Knows us and loves us (v. 3-5; Rev. 1:7)

Be Devoted:

- Rekindle your Affections (v. 4; Acts 19:10; 1 Tim. 1:3-6)
- Repent of your Complacency (v. 5)
- Renew your Commitments (v. 5-7)

Get Started:

1. What was an activity or hobby you really enjoyed as a child? What got you into it?
2. Why did you like it? Have you kept up with it? Why or why not?

Dig Deeper:

3. Read Revelation 2:1-7. What stands out to you in this passage?
4. How is Jesus introduced and described in v. 1?
5. What does Jesus affirm about the church in Ephesus (vv. 2-3, 6)?
6. What does Jesus confront in the church (v. 4-5)?
7. What can we learn from the *way* Jesus addresses the issues in Ephesus?
8. How does the promise of v. 7 encourage you?

Move Forward:

9. Describe your "first love" for Jesus. How did you feel in your early days of following Him? What did it look like in terms of your habits and practices?
10. What are some disciplines or commitments that help you (re)kindle your affections for Jesus and live in loving devotion to Him?
11. Has anyone found the Spiritual Life Worksheet helpful (download here: <https://www.oakwoodfl.org/2025/01/03/faithful/>)? If so, how?
12. How can we pray for you today?