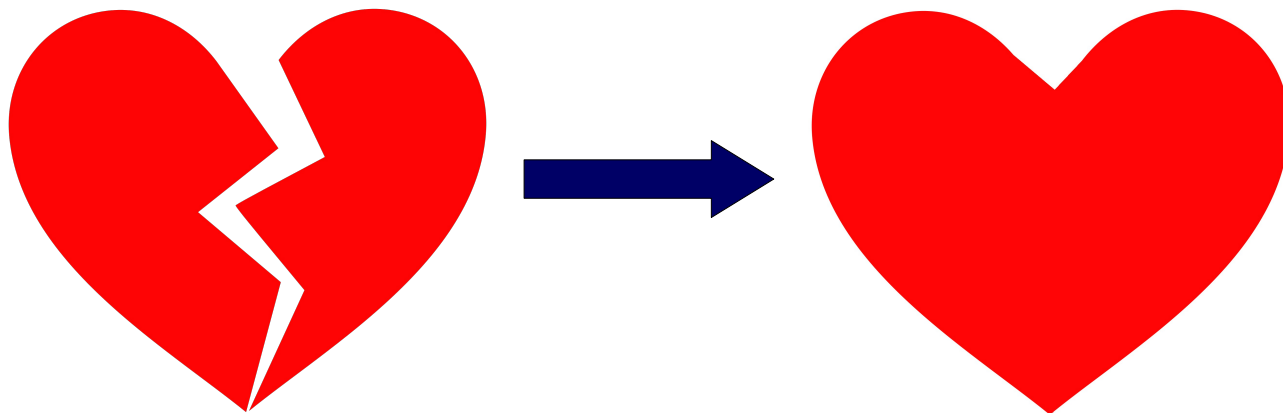


Leaving Your First Love and How to Return to It

Revelation 2:1-7



Introduction

- We have had a series on Ephesians.
- This was the same church John wrote to in Revelation (2:1-7).
- This was the same church where Timothy was working when Paul wrote to him (1-2 Timothy).
- This is the same church where Paul taught at the School of Tyrannus and performed many extraordinary miracles (Acts 18:19-21, 24-28; 19:1-41; 20:17-38).

Introduction

- In Acts, we learn how the church in Ephesus begins (AD 53-55).
- We also learn of the warnings and exhortations given to the elders there (AD 57).
- In Ephesians we see further reminders and exhortations (AD 62).
- In 1-2 Timothy, we see a church that is battling heresies while maintaining proper conduct in the church (AD 65, 67).
- Finally, we see in Revelation that they still fight for truth, yet have left their first love (AD 68).

Leaving Your First Love

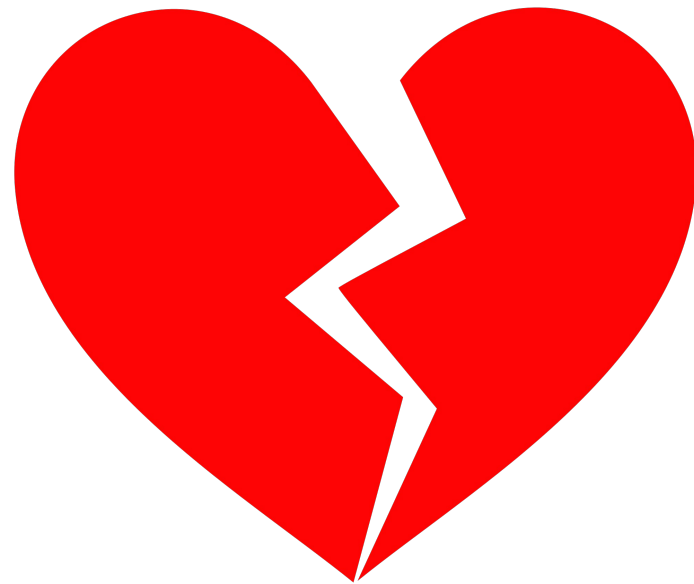
- In only 15 years, they had left their first love.
- They were so busy fighting false teachers, they neglected the “first works.”
- They were sound in doctrine and are praised for this.
- This sound church also needed to repent!

Leaving Your First Love

- They had left “their devotion to God, and the benevolence for His people, that had characterized the earlier days of their congregational existence” (Wayne Jackson).

Love the Lord
your God.

Love your neighbor
as yourself.



How to Return to It

- Remember from where you have fallen.
- Repent.
 - Recognize where you were and where you need to be.
 - Resolve to do what needs to be done.
- Do the first works.
 - They were already laboring.
 - Still lacked the *first* works.

How to Return to It

- Doing the first works means to “recapture the love and zeal that had originally characterized them” (Hugh Fulford).

Love the Lord
your God.

Love your neighbor
as yourself.



Conclusion

- Let us recapture our first love.
- Let us do the first works.
- If we have left our first love, neglected the first works, we must repent!

