



7 Letters to the Church

Week 2: Remember Your First Love | Teacher: Dr. Joel Muddamalle
Sermon Questions for 10.13.2024

Opener

What do you think are the biggest distractions you have on a weekly basis?

Read

Revelation 2:1-7; Revelation 1:16; Acts 19:18-20, 27;

Main Points

1. Jesus starts with a commendation ("I know..."), then a correction ("But..."), then a call ("Remember...").
 - a. Commendation: I know...your works, labor, endurance, you don't tolerate evil, you test and find what is true and false, and you endure with patience for my name's sake without growing weary.
 - b. Correction: But...you abandoned your first love.
 - c. Call: remember your first love, repent by turning away from sin, and live as we started in the faith.
2. The warning: just because we start in the power of the Spirit doesn't mean we are guaranteed that we won't end in the vicious vice-grip of the flesh.
3. We live in a world where love is portrayed as: 100% affirmation, acceptance, turning a blind eye, and not challenging or questioning. Biblical love: love without conviction leads to compromise, love without boundaries leads to abuse, love without challenge leads to complacency, and love without discipline is simply hatred.
4. A theology of remembrance: recall who we were before Christ. Rejoice in who we are because of Christ. Remain steadfast in who we are becoming in and through Christ.

Engage with God in a Group

- What was it like for you when you first came to know Jesus loved you and gave himself for you?
- When was a time in your life when you realized you had become distracted from Jesus, your first love?
- How would you describe your relationship with Jesus now? How has this relationship impacted your relationships with others?
- How might a theology of remembrance change how you make decisions?

Bottom Line

When we slip in our vertical love with Christ, it always impacts our horizontal love with others.