

Message: ***Return to First Love***

Scripture: Revelation 2:1-7

(01-21-24 Pastor Tony Hao)

“First love” is the love experienced between two persons who are “in love.” This is love that always has time for the beloved. Attentive, eager, seeking to please, extravagant. This is when a man or woman is first united with church after having discovered and believed in Jesus Christ and His love.

But after a few years, that person becomes a leader with very heavy responsibilities. That person—because of giftedness and hard work—experiences a subtle shift in life. That person is set adrift; motivated and nourished by the organization or by controversy or by ambition to hold power. The first love was lost. This person becomes totally preoccupied, fascinated with themes and goals which would have never won him or her in the first place to have joined the church.

Can it happen to us? It happens to marriages. It happens to the best of friendships. It happens to the spiritual life.

GROWING DEEPER (Reflection & Application)

1. What do we know about the church at Ephesus? What good things characterize the Ephesian church?
2. How might the strengths of this church have been the cause of its failure? What do you think their Sunday Worship was like?
3. What is repentance? Why is it necessary for the church at Ephesus?
4. In what ways have you lost your first love for Christ? What has helped you to keep that love alive?