

Lost Love
Revelation 2:1-7
February 17, 2008 (CSBC)

INTRO:

1. A letter to the Church in Ephesus
 - a. Was a major player in 1st century church life
 - b. Was major city in that day
2. A letter from Jesus
 - a. As He unfolds His revelation to John
 - b. To the church because He loves the church
3. A letter to the church today
 - a. To make sure we have our priorities straight
 - b. To call us back to our lost love

READ PASSAGE

I. We Need to Recognize Our Lost Love

- A. They were good at the mechanics of church
 - a. Jesus compliments them on their labor, their patience, their hate for evil things
 - b. They had tested the apostles and discerned the true from the false apostles
 - c. They were what we would call today a “solid” church
- B. They had one fatal flaw, they lost their love for Christ
- C. The heart of the church is the love we have for the Lord
- D. How do you know when you have lost your first love?
 - a. When you don’t think of them anymore
 - b. When you don’t talk to them anymore
 - c. When you don’t like their friends
 - d. When you don’t want to be with them anymore
- E. How do we know when we have lost our first love of the Lord?
 - a. We don’t pray as much
 - b. We don’t spend time with the Lord anymore
 - c. We don’t spend time with the Lord’s people
 - d. We spend more time talking about people and their faults than praying for them

- e. We aren’t able to forgive people and continue to hold grudges
- f. We aren’t flexible to the will of the Lord in your life

II. We Need to Return to Our Lost Love

- A. Do you remember your first love?
 - a. His/her name?
 - b. His/her hair color, eye color?
 - c. His/her favorite song etc.
 - d. The lengths you went to to let others know
 - e. The excitement of seeing them
- B. Do you remember your first love of the Lord?
 - a. When you were saved?
 - b. Would go to great lengths to tell others
 - c. Were excited to be in His presence and spend time with Him
- C. We MUST get back to that kind of love for Christ

III. We Need to Repent and Restore Our Lost Love

- A. We must repent of our lack of love
- B. We must repent of our selfishness
- C. Must get back to first things first
- D. Love for the Lord must be first
- E. Works flow from, and because of, that love
- F. Matthew 22:37-38 tells us to love the Lord with all our heart, soul, and mind. This is the greatest commandment

CONC:

- Will you today recognize your lost love for Christ?
- Will you today return to your first love for Him?
- Will you humble yourself today and repent and restore your lost love for our Savior?