

Human Suffering, Injustice and the Christian Response (pt. 3)

Acts 17:5-7, Revelation 2:1-5

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A. What We Must Recover: First Love for Jesus Christ

1. First Love Defined

The love of God in the heart of the believer that empowers him or her to faithfully obey the Great Commandments to love God, our neighbors and the one another commands in the body of Christ.

2. First Love Present

a. Newness of First Love

- New desires in life: 2 Cor. 5:17
- New direction for life: Phil. 1:21-22

b. Enthusiasm of First Love

- Zealous love for God's Word: Psalm 119:14, Psalm 119:127, Psalm 119:20
- Zealous love for Prayer: Acts 1:12-14, Acts 2:1, Acts 4:23-31
- Zealous love for Fellowship
 - With other first love believers
Psalm 119:63, Rom. 1:11-12, 1 Thess. 2:8, 2 Tim. 1:4, Philemon 7, 22
 - With the Lord Himself
Psalm 63:1-3, Phil. 1:21-24, Rom. 12:10
- Zealous love for the Lost: Romans 10:1, Psalm 126:5-6, Matt. 9:35-38
- Zealous love for Christ-likeness: Psalm 17:15, Phil. 3:10

c. Objects of First Love

- God: Matthew 22:36-39, 1 Peter 1:8
- God's people: John 13:33-34
- Lost sinners: Matthew 11:19