

# First Century Love

**Text:** Revelation 2:1-7

## **Introduction:**

1. As we read through verse 3 and then in verse 6 of our text we marvel at the strength of the church at Ephesus! It was indeed admirable in their stand for truth and against error. But the real shock is when we read verses 4-5!
2. In our lesson this morning we will examine some aspects of "first love" and hopefully assure ourselves that we have that love... or that we will return to it.

## **Discussion:**

### **I. What Was The Problem?!**

1. "The warmth of love had given way to lifeless orthodoxy" (Jamison, Faucett, Brown)
2. Paul addressed the same danger in 1 Corinthians 13:2
3. God has always demanded that our actions toward Him be not only right in action, but right in spirit (John 4:23-24; Isaiah 1:1-15)

### **II. What Was (Is) God's Goal?**

1. If we remember our relationship to God is compared to that of a marriage (Ephesians 5:23-32), then it is easy to see what His desire is... treat him not only with the action but the love and spirit.
2. He realizes the danger of losing the "first love." Such had occurred in Jeremiah's day and the result was wholesale apostasy (cf. Jeremiah 2:2)
3. Looking at the first century church helps us understand where the church once stood ...
  - (1) Attitude toward all of God's Word (Acts 2:41)
  - (2) Attitude toward worship (Acts 2:42)
  - (3) Attitude toward one another (Acts 2:44-45)
  - (4) Attitude toward sharing that they had learned (Acts 2:46-47)

### **III. What of Us?**

1. Not just WHAT we are doing, but what is our attitude behind such actions?
2. Look at the list above and ask if we are ready to stand before the Lord... what would be the letter He would pen to 39<sup>th</sup> Street?

## **Conclusion:**

We have great opportunities before us. What a wonderful thing if the world about us – our brothers and sisters about us – sees our "first love"!