



INTENT MESSAGING SERIES
 Part One: "Jesus is Intent on a Loving Church"
 Pastor David Cannistraci ♦ November 2, 2008

Text: Revelation 2:1-7

THE CHURCH AT _____

- Ephesus was the _____ city in the Roman province of Asia.
- The church in Ephesus was birthed in _____ (Acts 18-19).
- The church in Ephesus grew _____ in purity, productivity and patience.
- But the church at Ephesus had a _____.

“But I have this complaint against you. You don’t love me or each other as you did at first! Look how far you have fallen! Turn back to me and do the works you did at first. If you don’t repent, I will come and remove your lampstand from its place among the churches.”
 Revelation 2:4-5 (NLT)

LOSING AND RESTORING OUR _____

Jesus said, “The first [commandment] is, ‘Listen, Israel: The Lord your God is one; so love the Lord God with all your passion and prayer and intelligence and energy.’ And here is the second: ‘Love others as well as you love yourself.’ There is no other commandment that ranks with these.” Mark 12:29-31 (MSG)

“Because lawlessness is increased, most people's love will grow cold.”
 Matthew 24:12 (NASB)

Three Signs of a Dying First Love:

- Loss of _____ for the things of God.

A Loving Church (Cont'd)

- Loss of _____ for others.
- Increasing emphasis on _____.

How to Restore Your First Love:

“Remember the height from which you have fallen! Repent and do the things you did at first. If you do not repent, I will come to you and remove your lampstand from its place.” Revelation 2:5 (NIV)

1. _____ how it was.
2. _____ and change your mind.
3. _____ to your first works.

“Restore to me the joy of your salvation, and make me willing to obey you.” Psalm 51:12 (NLT)

FATHER GOD, I thank you for loving me and sending Christ to confirm it. Forgive me for failing to love you and others as I should. I ask you to flood me with pure love through the power of the Holy Spirit, and teach me to give myself completely to you. In Christ’s Name, AMEN

RESOURCES FOR THIS WEEK’S SMALL GROUPS

Icebreaker: Describe your first days as a believer – what was it like?

Scripture Focus: Let each member share a verse from this teaching-- one that spoke to them personally. What does it mean to them?

Discussion Focus: How can we recover that joy of first being saved?

Prayer Focus: Pray for each person’s first love to be restored.

REMEMBER to give an offering for the needy in your group this week, for God has promised us a rich reward (Det. 15:11, Psalm 41:1)