



TALK IT OVER

Personally Disturbed

BOTTOM LINE

What does love require of me?
Loving God with all my heart is both vertical and horizontal. I can't have one without the other.

CONVERSATION STARTER

What way has your personality or preferences changed since you were a child?

THINGS TO CONSIDER

What did you hear?

What do you think?

What will you do?

RESOURCES

- The Daily: newpointeorg/daily
- Pictures and info about [Ephesus](#)

KEY VERSES AND QUOTES

“To the angel of the church in Ephesus write: These are the words of him who holds the seven stars in his right hand and walks among the seven golden lampstands. I know your deeds, your hard work and your perseverance. I know that you cannot tolerate wicked people, that you have tested those who claim to be apostles but are not, and have found them false. You have persevered and have endured hardships for my name, and have not grown weary. Yet I hold this against you: You have forsaken the love you had at first. Consider how far 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 2:1-5 NIV

“Jesus loves people enough to not only celebrate them, but to confront them in the areas where they are lacking.” – Dwight Mason

“Revelation is a book about the battle that has been and is always being waged in each of our lives as the church in this world. Our lives are part of the much larger battle, the conflict between the Kingdom of God and the Kingdom of Evil.” – Dwight Mason

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What is required to have an unshakable hope and an unwavering allegiance? Why is it vital? Jesus told the Ephesians they had right belief and right behavior. Those are the things we count on most. How is that true for you and the Church in general? Jesus had something personal against them despite their outward behavior and beliefs—He said they lost the most vital love; their primary attention was given to secondary issues. What were/are the signs of loss of love in relationships like marriage? What about us with God? How do you see the Church and your own tendency to think the big problems are outside of me, not my lack of love? Your life becomes characterized by the performance of a Christian without the connection to the person of Christ. Discuss. Jesus called the people to recognize what they have lost, repent, and recapture their first love. To love Him rightly is to love others as Jesus has loved me (John 13:34). What will that love require of me?

ACTION STEPS (This or one of your own)

I want to have more than right belief and right behavior. I want my focus to be passionate love for Jesus and others that does not focus on secondary issues. I will set aside time for prayer and meditation to recognize what I have lost, repent, and recapture my first love.

My Action Step: _____