

1  **First Love**

6/5/2012

2  **First Love**

- Rev 2:1-7 The Ephesian Church
- Vs 2-3: Madly in love with Christ – this love prompted them to labour, perseverance and endure hardship for the Lord; and they have not grown weary i.e still pressing on!
- The key to this is their love, faith and hope in God (1Thes 1:3)...the most important/greatest being their love for God (1Cor 13:13)
- They walked in the most important commandments – love God and love humanity
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3  **Lost Passion**

- Vs 4-5: rebuked for loosing 'first love' = 'passion'
- Still doing the right things but not so passionately as at first – their passion had fallen below the level they operated in at first!
- And they had stopped doing 'the things they did at first'
- Reflection - How does this apply to you/me as individuals and to us as a body?

4  **Solution = Repentance**

- Solution: Repent and do the things you did at first (vs 5a)
- Repentance does not just mean being sorry but also to turn away from the sinful way (Ez 18:30) and to turn towards God i.e do the right thing (Acts 3:19)
- We must 'produce fruit' in keeping with our repentance (Acts 26:20; Matt 3:8)
- Action time: 1. Prayer of repentance 2. Action plan
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5  **Action Plan - basics**

- Seek ye first! (Matt 6:33)
- God has a plan, purpose & destiny for every-body (individuals/corporate) – Jer 29:11
- God gives the vision in line with His plan/purpose & supplies gifts/talents, resources and opportunities
- We find the purpose & vision, we embrace it (take ownership) and passionately set about fulfilling it with the help and power of the Holy Spirit
- That's the reason for our existence on earth!

6  **Action Plan - 2**

- Re-visit the vision/plan or discover it anew
- (Summit Mandate revisited!)
- All God ordained purpose/vision is ultimately about reconciling men to God (we are ambassadors!)
- Telling them about the King and His Kingdom and His love and plan for them (John

3:16/2Cor 5:17-20)

- Demonstrating/touching the world with the love of Christ practically (Matt 25:35)
- Total surrender and yielding to God's purpose!

7  **Action Plan 3**

- Like Jesus, we must be about our father's business of making disciples (Lk2:49; Jn2:17)
- Begin to 'do' the things that we did at first or need to do (Rom 12:11)
- Tell people about Jesus – what He has done for you and wants to do for them (1Cor 1:17)
- Reach out and minister to the needy with the love of Jesus (Matt 25:35)
- Make clear ongoing plans to achieve these
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