

Retief Uys







1. Intro:

Matthew 22:37 And he said to him, "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. 38 This is the great and first commandment. 39 And a second is like it: You shall love your neighbor as yourself."

2. Scripture:

Revelation 2:1 "To the angel of the church in Ephesus write: 'The words of him who holds' the seven stars in his right hand, who walks among the seven golden lampstands. 2 "'I know your works, your toil and your patient endurance, and how you cannot bear with those who are evil, but have tested those who call themselves apostles and are not, and found them to be false. 3 I know you are enduring patiently and bearing up for my name's sake, and you have not grown weary.



4 But I have this against you, that you have abandoned the love you had at first. 5 Remember therefore from where you have fallen; repent, and do the works you did at first. If not, I will come to you and remove your lampstand from its place, unless you repent. 6 Yet this you have: you hate the works of the Nicolaitans, which I also hate. 7 He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches. To the one who conquers I will grant to eat of the tree of life, which is in the paradise of God.'

4 But I have this against you, that you have abandoned the love you had at first.

[KJV] Nevertheless I have somewhat against thee, because thou hast left thy first love.



2.1 Context:

About the Book of Revelation

1 The writer

Apostle John wrote to the churches in Asia. John lived in the city called Ephesus, but he was on the island called Patmos when he wrote this book.

2 Date

During the rule of Domitian. He was the king of Rome during the years AD 81 to 96.



3 Purpose

How Jesus will come again. He will win the fight against the devil. Jesus will save his people. He is with them now. And he will be with them beyond the end of time. John writes to teach and correct Christians. He tells them to change where needed. He encourages them to continue to do the right things.

4 Style

John calls this book a prophecy. The Lord said: 'Write what you have seen. Write what is happening now. And write what is going to happen after these things' (1:19). The book shows the events that will lead to the end of history.

2.2 The Church of Ephesus:

2.2.1 Revelation 2:1

"To the angel of the church in Ephesus write: 'The words of him who holds the seven stars in his right hand, who walks among the seven golden lampstands.



2.2 The Church of Ephesus:

2.2.2 Verses 2,3

2 "I know your works, your toil and your patient endurance, and how you cannot bear with those who are evil, but have tested those who call themselves apostles and are not, and found them to be false. 3 I know you are enduring patiently and bearing up for my name's sake, and you have not grown weary...

2.2.3 Verse 4

But I have this against you, that you have abandoned the love you had at first.

because thou hast left thy first love. [KJV]



- **FIRST** = prōtos G4253; foremost (in time, place, order or importance): before, beginning, best, chief (-est), first (of all), former.
- The phrase "first love" holds two meanings:

"as you loved me at first" [chronology]

And "my first love." [to do with priority]

These two meanings overlap and are complementary.

Love here in Revelation 2:4 is:

AGAPE LOVE

agapē From G25; love, that is, affection or benevolence; specifically (plural) a love feast: - (feast of) charity ([-ably]), dear, love.

Faithfulness, Commitment and an act of the will. Beautifully described in 1 Corinthians 13

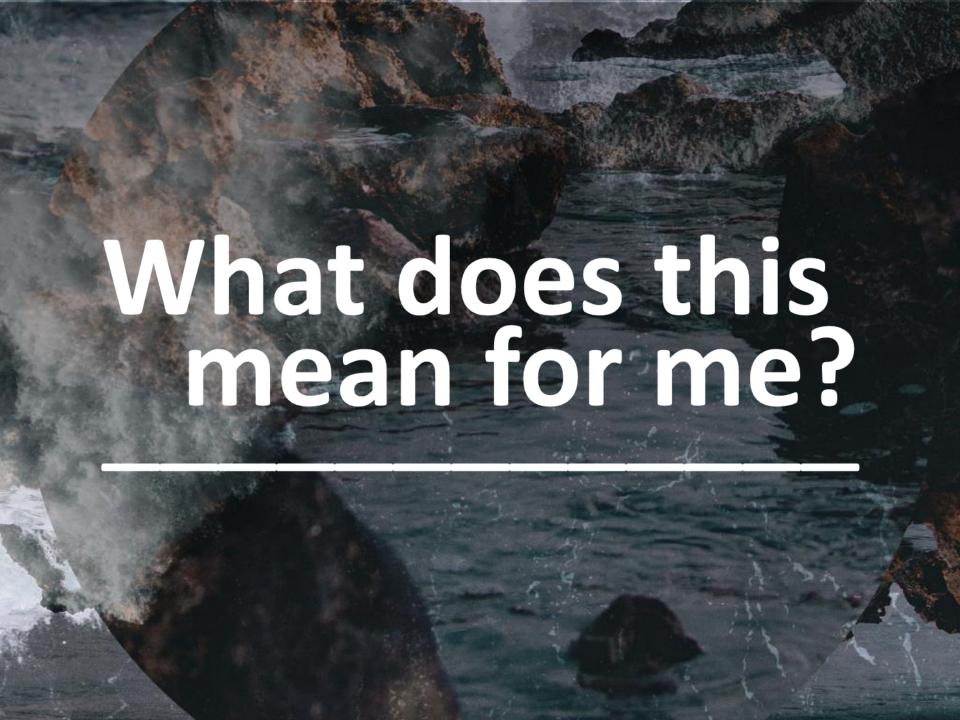
What is AGAPE love?



2.2.4 Back to the Scripture: WHAT TO DO for the Church Ephesus?

5 Remember therefore from where you have fallen; repent, and do the works you did at first. If not, I will come to you and remove your lampstand from its place, unless you repent. 6 Yet this you have: you hate the works of the Nicolaitans, which I also hate. 7 He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches. To the one who conquers I will grant to eat of the tree of life, which is in the paradise of God.'

- 1. Remember from where you have fallen
- 2. Repent
- 3. Do the things you did at first



3. What should we do?

Application -

"as you loved me at first" [chronology]

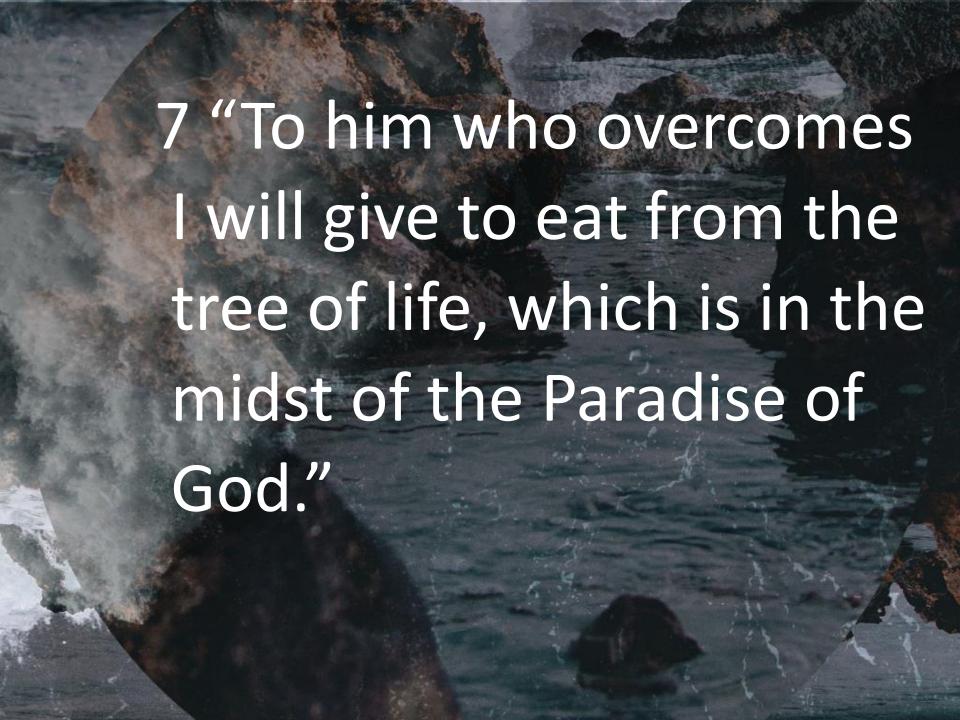
And "my first love." [to do with priority]

Otherwise, where is our 'first love'?



3. What should we do?

- 1. Listen
- 2. Remember
- 3. Conviction
- 4. Repent
- 5. Realize
 - 1 John 4:19 We love because He first loved us.
- 6. Choose [Your will]
- 7. Ask for the Holy Spirit's help
- 8. Do the things



#Knownforlove FIRST LOVE Sow unto your first love **(f) (2) (3)**

