



Ducks in a Row: Week 3 First Love

## Bible Reading

### Revelation 2:1-5

[\[10:49\]](#) [\[12:40\]](#)

### 1 Corinthians 13:1-3

[\[17:01\]](#)

### 1 John 4:10, 19

[\[30:11\]](#)

[\[30:16\]](#)

## Observation questions

1. What specific things does Jesus praise in the church at Ephesus before addressing what is wrong with them? [\[11:03\]](#)
2. What does Jesus say the Ephesians have abandoned, and what three responses does he command in verse 5?
3. In 1 Corinthians 13:1-3, what powerful spiritual activities or sacrifices does Paul mention that can still be empty without love? [\[17:01\]](#)
4. What are some ways the same outward activities can remain in place even after the affection beneath them has shifted? [\[09:09\]](#)

## Interpretation questions

1. How could a church or believer work hard, stand for truth, endure hardship, and still abandon their first love? What motives might quietly replace love for Jesus? [\[13:16\]](#)
2. Jesus tells the Ephesians to “remember,” “repent,” and “do the works” they did at first. How is this more than simply trying to recreate an earlier emotional experience with God? [\[23:06\]](#)

3. Why does Paul use such strong words—“nothing” and “gain nothing”—for impressive actions done without love? What does that reveal about what God values beneath outward obedience? [\[17:32\]](#)
4. If Jesus is the source and sustainer of life, why do even good things become harmful when they take first place in a person’s heart? [\[14:58\]](#)

### **Application questions**

1. What is currently receiving the most attention in your life—responsibilities, work, comfort, a relationship, entertainment, ministry, or something else? How might that attention be shaping your affection? [\[03:03\]](#)
2. Are there spiritual practices you still do—prayer, serving, giving, reading Scripture, gathering with the church—but that sometimes feel driven more by duty, fear, image, or habit than love for Jesus? What might help you honestly name that shift? [\[16:39\]](#)
3. What good thing may have moved too high in your life lately? In what ways have you looked to it to comfort, save, heal, or define you in ways that belong to God alone? [\[27:06\]](#)
4. What is one specific memory of God’s faithfulness in your life that you need to remember this week? How could remembering that moment help reorient your heart toward Christ? [\[22:04\]](#)
5. Rather than trying to force a feeling, which one or two practices could create space for love for Jesus to grow again—prayer, Scripture, worship, communion, or gathered church life? What would a realistic first step look like this week? [\[28:33\]](#)
6. 1 John says that love begins with God’s love for sinners, not with people getting their priorities right first. Where do you need to receive Christ’s love and grace again instead of trying to earn your way back to him? [\[30:28\]](#)
7. Jesus invites his people to actively reorder their lives. Is there a change needed in your calendar, relationships, spending, habits, or attention so that Jesus is not merely included but truly first? [\[34:39\]](#)