

Sermon Discussion Questions & Follow-up Notes

January 1, 2026 // Guest Preacher: Rev. Jim Barnes

Questions by Pastor Andrew (andrew@firstprotestant.com)

Sermon Text: Revelation 2:1-7 Series: Annual Sermon from the EA National Minister

Sermon Title: "Restoring Our Love For The Lord"

Link to sermon: <https://youtu.be/x0OzveyszKg?t=1696>

Key Points & Observations of the Text

It is suggested you read the passage (Revelation 2:1-7) aloud as a group.

The Main Point: God's Word calls each Christian to make Jesus their first priority love, rekindling their passion through remembrance, repentance, and recognizing His sacrificial love for us.

1. The Nature of Love

- Throughout the Bible, love is a conscious choice based on trust and respect, not just fleeting feelings or emotions that ebb and flow.
- Our first love should be Jesus, loved passionately and devotedly above all else, as the Ephesians had forsaken this priority.
- **Discussion Question:** How does understanding love not as 'a come-and-go feeling' but as a choice based on trust & respect change your approach to relationship with Jesus and others?

2. The Renewal of Our Love

- Remember times when Jesus was your top priority. The Ephesian church had fallen from that height and needed to return!
- God calls us to go back to the ways we loved Christ when He was first in our lives.
- Implicit in these verses is in the claim that love is recoverable and renewable!
- **Discussion Question:** Describe a time when your love for Jesus felt strong—what practices from then could you revive today?

3. The Repentance Needed

- The call to "repent" means to turn away from things like over-busy church involvement, hyper-focus on work, ungodly relationships, or hobbies that crowd out Jesus as first love.
- It's vital to recognize that even busy church activities can cause neglect if they displace genuine love for Christ, as seen with Mary and Martha (Luke 10:38-42).
- **Discussion Question:** What specific thing in your life is currently pushing Jesus to the "back burner," and how can you turn away from it?

4. The Recognition of God's Love

- Jesus has already made us His first priority by dying on the cross, giving us eternal life and heaven's promise.
- Knowing Christ's sacrificial love motivates us to respond with full devotion, as He convicts us of making Him a mere afterthought to our daily life.
- **Discussion Question:** How does reflecting on Jesus' ultimate act of love for you inspire changes in your daily priorities?