



RENEW → REBUILD → REKINDLE =  
**LOVE SO AMAZING**

2022 THEME

Rev. 2:1 Unto the angel of the church of Ephesus write; These things saith he that holdeth the seven stars in his right hand, who walketh in the midst of the seven golden candlesticks;

2 I know thy works, and thy labour, and thy patience, and how thou canst not bear them which are evil: and thou hast tried them which say they are apostles, and are not, and hast found them liars:

3 And hast borne, and hast patience, and for my name's sake hast laboured, and hast not fainted.

4 Nevertheless I have *somewhat* against thee, because **thou hast left thy first love.**

5 **Remember** therefore from whence thou art fallen, and **repent**, and do the first works; or else I will come unto thee quickly, and will **remove** thy candlestick out of his place, except thou **repent**.

6 But this thou hast, that thou hatest the deeds of the Nicolaitans, which I also hate.

7 He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches; To him that overcometh will I give to eat of the tree of life, which is in the midst of the paradise of God.

Being the last Sunday of the year, we will consider last year's theme and how it morphs into this year's theme...

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Human beings are capable of falling into AND out of love. Churches can do the same. Let's consider the church at Ephesus.

# I. THE FAITHFUL WORKS OF THE CHURCH

## A. Standing Up to the Task, 2:1-2a

Rev. 2:1 “Unto the angel of the church of Ephesus write; These things saith he that holdeth the seven stars in his right hand, who walketh in the midst of the seven golden candlesticks;

2 I know thy works, and thy labour, and thy patience...”

❖ The church at Ephesus had a great testimony of being a hard-working church with an attitude of patience.

**Original Word:** ὑπομονή

**Transliteration:** hupomoné

**Definition:** a remaining behind, a patient enduring

**Usage:** endurance, steadfastness, patient waiting for.

*hypomoné* (from *hypó*, "under" and *ménō*, "remain, endure") – **properly, remaining under, endurance; steadfastness, especially as God enables the believer to "remain (endure) under" the challenges He allots in life.** <https://biblehub.com/greek/5281.htm>

❖ The attitude of patience is a mindset to embrace and endure hard times.

B. Standing Up for the Truth, 2:2b “...and how thou canst not bear them which are evil: and thou hast tried them which say they are apostles, and are not, and hast found them liars:”

- ❖ The church at Ephesus had a great testimony and also stood strong for the truth and against the religious liars of their day.
- ❖ The church at Ephesus was not full of “cowardly closet Christians” like so many today. They were courageous, confrontational Christians.
- ❖ The Ephesians “tried” the phony religious crowd and “found them liars:”

## C. Standing Up in the Test, 2:3

Rev. 2:3 And hast borne, and hast patience, and for my name's sake hast laboured, and hast not fainted.

❖ The church in Ephesus had a great testimony of staying faithful during difficult times, enduring the burdens of their era, and wore themselves out, “for my name’s sake.”

**Original Word:** κοπιᾶω

**Transliteration:** kopiaó

**Definition and Usage:** to grow weary, toil, work with effort (of bodily and mental labor alike).

*kopiáō* (from *kópos*, "exhausting labor") – **to labor until worn-out, depleted (exhausted)**. <https://biblehub.com/greek/2872.htm>



❖ The COVID Pandemic would have been a “piece of cake” for the Ephesians.

## II. THE FATAL WEAKNESS OF THE CHURCH

### A. The Vitality of Their Passion was Gone, 2:4

Rev. 2:4 Nevertheless I have *somewhat* against thee, because **thou hast left thy first love.**

❖ In spite of having such a wonderful testimony, the Lord had an issue with them – the vitality of their passion was gone – “...thou hast left thy first love.”

B. The Validity of Their Profession was Gone, 2:5a  
“Remember therefore from whence thou art fallen...”

- ❖ The church at Ephesus had to be reminded to examine from where they had backslidden.
- ❖ A distracted love loses intensity before it lacks focus, which leads to a lack of perception of spiritual assessment.

### III. THE FORCEFUL WARNING TO THE CHURCH

#### A. Love Must Be Absolutely Paramount, 2:5b

“...and **repent**, and do the first works; or else I will come unto thee quickly, and will **remove** thy candlestick out of his place, except thou repent.”

- ❖ The “remembering” is part of this year’s theme **RENEWING, REBUILDING, AND REKINDLING** – which should lead us to repentance.

- ❖ We should take the warning very seriously lest our candlestick be removed.
- ❖ When we take care of the Lord's business according to His directions, then our lives will be enriched to realize His *LOVE SO AMAZING*.

## B. Love Must Be Absolutely Positive, 2:6

Rev. 2:6 But **this thou hast**, that thou hatest the deeds of the Nicolaitans, which I also hate.

- ❖ When our “love life” is properly balanced in pleasing the Lord, then our actions and convictions will mirror Him.
- ❖ Believers should love what Christ loves, and hate what Christ hates.

### C. Love Must Be Absolutely Personal, 2:7

Rev. 2:7 **He** that hath an ear, let **him** hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches; To **him** that overcometh will I give to eat of the tree of life, which is in the midst of the paradise of God.

- ❖ Note – the pronouns are singular, indicating individuality → a personal relationship with the Lord.
- ❖ All of eternity hangs upon the personal relationship each person has, or does not have, with the Lord Jesus Christ.

1 Jn. 5:12 **He that hath the Son hath life; and he that hath not the Son of God hath not life.**

13 These things have I written unto you that believe on the name of the Son of God; **that ye may know that ye have eternal life**, and that ye may believe on the name of the Son of God.

## Conclusion

As we edge closer to the new year, let's...

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In preparation for 2022, let's focus upon the love of God, and love Him as He loves the Lord Jesus.

Jn. 17:23 I in them, and thou in me, that they may be made perfect in one; and **that the world may know that thou hast sent me, and hast loved them, as thou hast loved me.**

24 Father, I will that they also, whom thou hast given me, be with me where I am; that they may behold my glory, which thou hast given me: for **thou lovedst me before the foundation of the world.**

25 O righteous Father, the world hath not known thee: but I have known thee, and these have known that **thou hast sent me.**

26 And I have declared unto them thy name, and will declare *it*: **that the love wherewith thou hast loved me may be in them, and I in them.** = LOVE SO AMAZING!