

# **“Building God’s Heart into CBC: Loving God Part 2”**

Revelation 2:1-5

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January 25, 2009

## **I. The Problem: They were laboring faithfully but without a love for God (verses 1-4).**

“Though they continued to labor faithfully as those who had preceded them, the love of God which characterized the first generation was missing. This cooling of heart which had overtaken them in relationship to God was a dangerous forerunner of spiritual apathy which later was to erase all Christian testimony in this important center of Christian influence. Thus it has ever been in the history of the church: first the cooling of spiritual love, then the love of God replaced by a love for the things of the world, with resulting compromise and spiritual corruption. This is followed by departure from the faith and loss of effective spiritual testimony.”

John F. Walvoord, *The Revelation of Jesus Christ*,  
Moody Press, Chicago, 1966, p. 56.

## **II. The Solution: Restore our “first love.”**

- A. Remember what your love for God was like when you first came to Him (verse 5).
- B. Repent—this involves (verse 5):
  - 1. Confession— agreeing with God about our sin and our hearts.
  - 2. Having a change of mind and heart.

C. Do the things you did at first (verse 5).

What do new believers do?

1. Thank God regularly for what Christ has done for them (Colossians 1:12-14).

“When we lose the seriousness of sin, we begin to lose the thrill of our forgiveness.”

*Life Application Bible*, Tyndale House Publisher, Inc., Wheaton, Illinois, and Zondervan, Grand Rapids, Michigan, 1988, p. 2300.

“...we studiously hold onto the possibility that we’re more righteous than the Bible describes us to be. When we look into the mirror of self-appraisal, the person we tend to see is a person who is more righteous than any of us actually is!”

Paul David Tripp, *Whiter Than Snow: Meditations on Sin and Mercy*, Crossway Books, Wheaton, Illinois, 2008, p. 28.

2. Soak in God’s Word (Psalm 119:97-105).
3. Share their faith (Philemon 6).
4. Live surrendered to God (Romans 12:1-2).