

The Priority of Relationship

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I. Introduction.

- A. The things that we do are important, but this cannot be our only focus. (Ephesians 2)
- B. Text: Revelation 2:1-7.
- C. Background: Acts 19.

II. Jesus commends good works.

- A. Good deeds are part of the Christian life.
- B. We will be rewarded for our deeds.
- C. Jesus commends the Ephesians for their deeds.
- D. Jesus commends the Ephesians for their sacrifice.
- E. Jesus commends them for their willingness to be pure in doctrine. (Acts 20:27-29)
- F. Jesus commends them for their perseverance.

III. Jesus rebukes for a lack of relationship.

- A. Jesus tells the Ephesians that they have lost their first love.
- B. This was not likely a deliberate thing.
- C. The longer we are saved, the more excited we ought to be about God.
- D. A pastor can be very susceptible to this because he spends so much time serving God without cultivating his relationship with Him.
- E. God's priority is relationship and intimacy.
- F. Anything that takes away a person's love for Christ is a threat.

IV. Correcting a loss of intimacy with God.

- A. Remember your first love.
- B. Repent.
- C. Repeat.

V. If we do not keep our relationship with Christ a priority, we will lose our impact.

Application questions:

1. What does it look like to lose one's first love for Christ?

2. Why do you think God wants relationship more than good deeds?

3. What can you do to stir your relationship with God more this week in a practical and provable way? Explain.
