

Revive

First Love

Pastor Craig Sweeney | May 3, 2026

- 7) Indifference rarely shows up as one big moment — it shows up as small drift. Where do you see indifference creeping into the lives of believers today, and where might it be quietly creeping into yours?

Read Psalm 51:1-17 (NLT)

- 8) When David finally came to his senses, he didn't try to defend himself, blame anyone, or manage his image. What does his prayer teach us about what real repentance actually looks like?
- 9) David asks God to “restore to me the joy of your salvation.” What's the connection between honest repentance and the return of joy in our walk with God?

CHAIR TIME TOOLS

- 1) Where in your life is indifference quietly winning right now — with God, with a person close to you, or with the church? What would the very first small step of “turning back” look like this week?
- 2) Take a few minutes alone with God and ask the Holy Spirit, “What about my first love am I missing right now?” Sit quietly, long enough to actually hear an answer, and write down what comes to mind.
- 3) Pray Psalm 51:10-12 over yourself every day this week as a personal prayer of return, rather than a one-time ask. Watch what God does with a heart that keeps coming back.

Thread: Without love, the relationship is hollow.

“Write this letter to the angel of the church in Ephesus. This is the message from the one who holds the seven stars in his right hand...”

Revelation 2:1a NLT

The intent of the symbolism of “Angel of the church” and “Stars”

“...the one who walks among the seven gold lampstands: I know all the things you do. I have seen your hard work and your patient endurance. I know you don't tolerate evil people. You have examined the claims of those who say they are apostles but are not. You have discovered they are liars. You have patiently suffered for me without quitting. But I have this complaint against you. You don't love me or each other as you did at first! Look how far you have fallen! Turn back to me and do the works you did at first. If you don't repent, I will come and remove your lampstand from its place among the churches. But this is in your favor: You hate the evil deeds of the Nicolaitans, just as I do. Anyone with ears to hear must listen to the Spirit and understand what he is saying to the churches. To everyone who is victorious I will give fruit from the tree of life in the paradise of God.” **Revelation 2:1b-7 NLT**

King David had turned INDIFFERENT.

“In the spring of the year, when kings normally go out to war, David sent Joab and the Israelite army to fight the Ammonites. They destroyed the Ammonite army and laid siege to the city of Rabbah. However, David stayed behind in Jerusalem.” **2 Samuel 11:1 NLT**

• **This was new, he had not done this before.**

- Indifference changed David's behavior
- Indifference dulled David's sense of shame
- Indifference changed David's feelings/emotions towards those closest to him.

Wk 1: Repentance

Wk 2: Return

- Love “*Agape*”: brotherly affection, not based on feeling. Motivated by what is best for the person. The picture of someone turning towards another to do good or be good for them.
 - For God
 - For *each other* – people

Do you need to “turn toward God” – or someone you have turned away from?

- **First love**
 - Is consuming.
 - The actions of the beginning
 - The curiosity of the beginning
- **David was incredibly close to God.**
- **2 chapters later, David was curious about His God.**
 - **David’s own words**
- **The affections of the beginning**

Challenge:

- Do I need to practice repentance?
- Do I need to turn back to my first love in relationship with God?
- Do I need to turn back to my first love in relationship with people in my life – this church?

For practical, cross-cultural Bible studies related to sermon topics, visit Dougbrittonbooks.com/resource.

Homework Revive, First Love Spring 2026 | Week 5

Message Date 5/3/2026

MY STORY

- 1) What's a hobby, fad, or food obsession you went ALL IN on at the beginning – and then completely lost interest in within a few weeks?
- 2) You have to plan a picnic for 20 people using only items currently in your kitchen right now. What are you bringing, or making?

QUICK REVIEW

- 3) What caught your attention from Sunday’s message?

DIGGING DEEPER / TAKING IT HOME

Read Revelation 2:1–7 (NLT)

- 4) Jesus introduces Himself as the One holding the seven stars in His right hand and walking among the seven gold lampstands. What does this picture of His active presence tell us about how He sees His Church right now?
- 5) Jesus commends the Ephesians for hard work, patient endurance, and doctrinal discernment — yet still tells them, “You don't love me or each other as you did at first.” How is it possible to be doing all the right things on the outside and still have lost your first love?
- 6) Jesus' remedy is straightforward: “Look how far you have fallen! Turn back to me and do the works you did at first.” What do remembering, repenting, and returning practically look like for someone whose love has cooled toward God or toward people?