

First Love

Revelation 2:1-7

Modern Turkey



Roman Provinces (Asia)

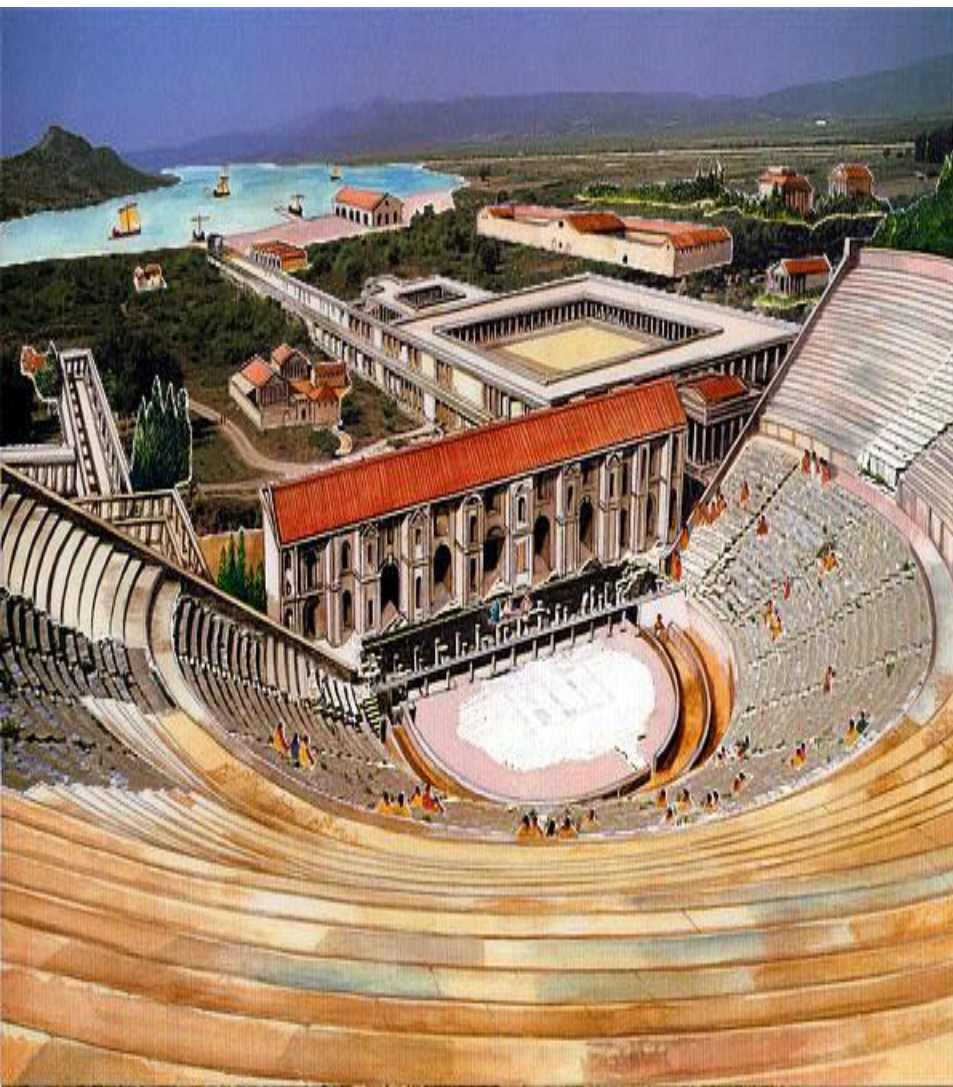


The Seven Churches of Revelation

	Commendation	Criticism	Instruction	Promise
Ephesus (2:1-7)	Rejects evil (doctrinal vigilance), perseveres, has patience	Love for Christ no longer fervent (<u>lost first love?</u>)	Do the works you did at first	The tree of life
Smyrna (2:8–11)	Gracefully bears suffering	None	Be faithful until death	The crown of life
Pergamos (2:12-17)	Keeps the faith of Christ	Tolerated immorality, idolatry, and heresies	Repent	Hidden manna and a stone with a new name

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Thyatira (2:18–29)	Love, service, faith, patience is greater than at first	Tolerates cult of idolatry and immorality	Judgment coming; keep the faith	Rule over nations and receive morning star
Sardis (3:1-6)	Some have kept the faith	A dead church	Repent; strengthen what remains	Faithful honored and clothed in white
Philadelphia (3:7–13)	Perseveres in the faith	None	Keep the faith	A place in God's presence, a new name, and the New Jerusalem
Laodicea (3:14–22)	None	Indifferent	Be zealous and repent	Share Christ's throne



Christ's relationship with a local church

- There are **7 churches** who are recipients of Christ's edict. Each churches are dealt with individually with different designation of Christ.
- **v. 1** Number **"7"** symbol to indicate "completeness"
- **"Golden lampstands"** refers to 7 churches (1:20)
- **"Hold"** the meaning of the original word refers to "firm grasp" indicating "complete control"
- **"walks"** Jesus not simply an observer or spectator but active in the affairs of the church

Church belongs to Christ

- **He held it together**
- **Its significance was seen through
His activity**
- **He inspected and corrected
its attitudes and conducts**

31" Make a lampstand of pure gold. Hammer out its base and shaft, and make its flowerlike cups, buds and blossoms of one piece with them.

Exodus 25:31



Ark of the Covenant as depicted in
"Baldern of the Lost Ark" (Dennis and Patricia)



a.^{2:4} But I have this against you: You have *departed from your first love! (NET, NASB, NIV *forsaken)

b.⁴ But I have this against you, that you have abandoned the love you had at first. (ESV,

(keys to proper interpretation of verse 4)

What is the meaning behind “you have lost...first love”

1. ἀγάπη Love, ἀγαπάω to show love (first word used)
2. ἀφίημι (lost: departed, or abandoned): to move away from, with the implication of resulting separation (divorce) – relational view
3. **More important than** discernment **and** sound doctrine, patient endurance **in the** midst of trial, **or persecution for Jesus** because despite all of these works, if we don't regain it, we the church can be removed (vs.3-5) – “lampstand” (church 1:20)
4. **Solution given** – Remember how far we have fallen, to repent, and do the works we did at first (v. 5)

New Testament 'Agape'

assumed to mean moral goodwill that proceeds from esteem, principle, or duty rather than attraction or charm.

**Agape specifically means to
love the undeserving,
despite disappointment and rejection**

(keys to proper interpretation of verse 4)

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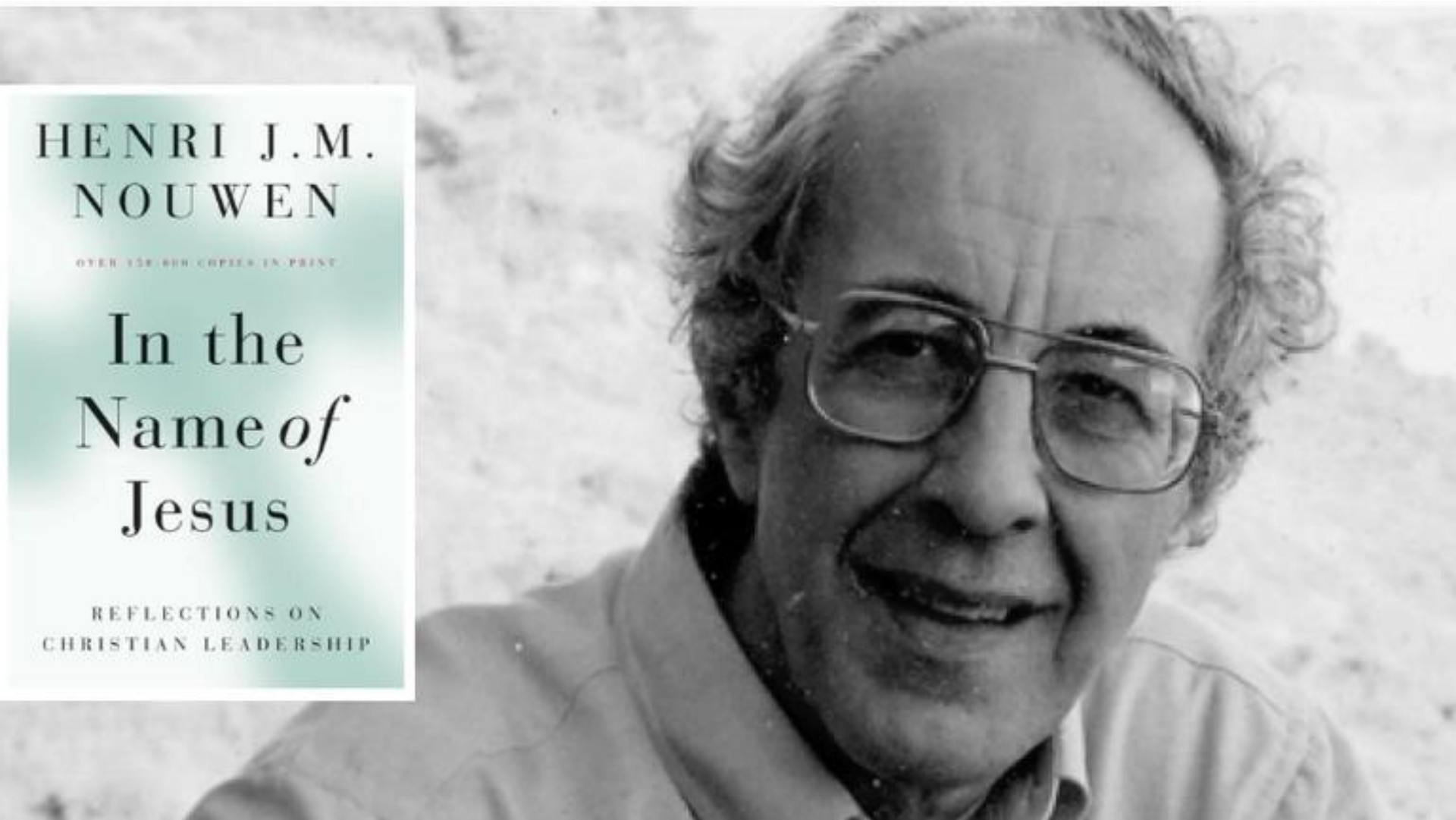
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HENRI J.M.
NOUWEN

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In the
Name of
Jesus

REFLECTIONS ON
CHRISTIAN LEADERSHIP



The unconditional and unlimited love is what the evangelist John calls God's first love. "Let us love," he says, "**because God loved us first**" (1 John 4:19).

The love that often leaves us doubtful, frustrated, angry, and resentful is the second love, that is to say, the affirmation, affection, sympathy, encouragement, and support we receive from our parents, teachers, spouses, and friends.

We all know how limited, broken, and very fragile that love is. Behind the many expressions of this second love there is always the chance of rejection, withdrawal, punishment, blackmail, violence and even hatred.

There are no friendships, marriages, or communities in which the strains and stresses of the **second love** are not keenly felt. Often it seems that beneath the pleasantries of daily life there are many gaping wounds that carry such names as abandonment, betrayal, rejection, rupture, and loss. There are all the shadows side of the **second love** and reveal the darkness that never completely leaves the human heart. The radical goodnews is that the **second love** is only a broken reflection of the **first love** and that the **first love** is offered to us by a God in whom there are no shadows.

Excerpt from “In the name of Jesus” p.38,40



Give, and it will be given to you. A good
measure, pressed down, shaken
together, and running over will be
poured into your lap. For with the
measure you use, it will be measured
back to you.”

Luke 6:38

**Seek you first the kingdom of God and
everything shall be given unto you.**

Matthew 6:33

When the first church was filled...

1. When they arrived, they went to the upper room...with one accord they all continued in prayer, along with the women and Mary the mother of Jesus, and with His brothers. (Holy Spirit comes) (**Acts 1:14**)
2. On their release, Peter and John returned to their own people... After they had prayed, their meeting place was shaken, and they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and spoke the word of God boldly. (**Acts 4:31**)

1.Obedient heart

2.Sacrificial heart

3.Trusting heart

4.Clear heart