



We have learned from churches in the New Testament that our church should be:

**SIMPLE** \_\_\_\_\_ **STRATEGIC** \_\_\_\_\_  
**TRANSFORMATIONAL** \_\_\_\_\_

But the believers and churches of the New Testament were also known and sometimes admonished about something else...

## P A S S I O N

**Defining Passion:** (from Dictionary.com)

- Any powerful or compelling \_\_\_\_\_ emotion or feeling.
- Strong \_\_\_\_\_ amorous feeling or desire.
- A strong or extravagant fondness, enthusiasm \_\_\_\_\_, or desire for anything.
- The object \_\_\_\_\_ of such a fondness or desire.
- Origin: Christ's sufferings on the cross \_\_\_\_\_, any of the Biblical accounts of these. ("The Passion of the Christ")

**People's Passion as the Church Began**

- Peter \_\_\_\_\_ and John \_\_\_\_\_ addressing the Sanhedrin - **Acts 4:7-13**
  - They had gone from being cowards \_\_\_\_\_ to great boldness \_\_\_\_\_.
  - Their secret: They had been with Jesus \_\_\_\_\_
- All the apostles \_\_\_\_\_ on trial – **Acts 5:27-32, 40-42**
  - Their faith and obedience to God \_\_\_\_\_ was **greater** than their fear of man \_\_\_\_\_.
  - Their internal passion \_\_\_\_\_ was greater than their external pain \_\_\_\_\_

**True Passion is strengthened in adversity**

**A Word of Caution – Revelation 2:1-5**

- The Church at Ephesus had a great start \_\_\_\_\_ (**Acts 19**)
- They were chosen to receive great truths \_\_\_\_\_ because they could both handle \_\_\_\_\_ it and would obey \_\_\_\_\_ them. (Read through the book of Ephesians)
- They believed \_\_\_\_\_ all the right things and did \_\_\_\_\_ all the right things...

**BUT**

(nevertheless)

**"you have left your first love"**

"You don't love me or each other as you did at first!" (NLT)  
"But you walked away from your first love—why?" (The Message)  
"You have forsaken your first love." (NIV)

**Commentary from the MacArthur Study Bible:**

*"For over 40 years, since its founding, this church had remained faithful to the Word and the Lord. Through difficulty and persecution, the members had endured, always driven by the right motive, i.e., for Christ's name and reputation... But the Ephesians' passion and fervor for Christ had become cold, mechanical orthodoxy. Their doctrinal and moral purity, their undiminished zeal for the truth, and their disciplined service were no substitute for the love for Christ they had forsaken." (Page 1994)*

**How is OUR passion as a CHURCH?**

**"Passionate Spirituality"** according to National Church Development

- "Are the Christians in this church 'on fire'? Do they live committed lives and practice their faith with joy and enthusiasm?"
- "Passionate spirituality demonstrates empirically that theological core of the matter in church growth: the life of faith as a genuine relationship with Jesus Christ."

**How is OUR passion as INDIVIDUALS?**

- We must examine \_\_\_\_\_ our relationship with Jesus Christ.
- We must examine both our quality \_\_\_\_\_ and quantity \_\_\_\_\_ in the areas of basic spiritual disciplines.
  - Passion for God's Word \_\_\_\_\_
  - Passion in prayer \_\_\_\_\_
  - Passion in sharing Christ \_\_\_\_\_ with others
  - Passion in giving \_\_\_\_\_

**Restoring the Passion – Revelation 2:5**

Remember \_\_\_\_\_ Repent \_\_\_\_\_ Do \_\_\_\_\_ the first works



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