

The Churches of Revelation: Jesus Speaks His Mind

Pt. 4-Balancing Truth & Tolerance

June 7, 2009

Ephesus was **"Busy"**

Jesus said... Return to your first love

Smyrna was **"Suffering"**

Jesus said... Be fearless, Be faithful

Pergamum was **"Confused"**

Jesus said... Recognize the danger of lies in relationships

The Church at Thyatira

Revelation 2:18 "Write this letter to the angel of the church in Thyatira. This is the message from the Son of God, whose eyes are like flames of fire, whose feet are like polished bronze:

Jesus Commends the Church

Revelation 2:19 "I know all the things you do. I have seen your love, your faith, your service, and your patient endurance. And I can see your constant improvement in all these things.

Jesus Shares his Complaint

Revelation 2:20-23 "But I have this complaint against you. You are permitting that woman—that Jezebel who calls herself a prophet—to lead my servants astray. She teaches them to commit sexual sin and to eat food offered to idols. I gave her time to repent, but she does not want to turn away from her immorality. "Therefore, I will throw her on a bed of suffering, and those who commit adultery with her will suffer greatly unless they repent and turn away from her evil deeds. I will strike her children dead. Then all the churches will know that I am the one who searches out the thoughts and intentions of every person. And I will give to each of you whatever you deserve.

Truth *without* Tolerance = Legalism

Tolerance *without* Truth = Liberalism

Truth *with* Tolerance = Balance = Jesus example

John 1:14 The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the One and Only, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth.

Jesus Challenges the Church

Revelation 2:24-26 "But I also have a message for the rest of you in Thyatira who have not followed this false teaching ('deeper truths,' as they call them—depths of Satan, actually). I will ask nothing more of you except that you hold tightly to what you have until I come.

Decisions to consider when/how to “hold tightly” to what you have...

- 1. Is this a major issue or minor issue according to the Bible?**
- 2. Do I have a biblical conviction about this issue?**
- 3. How would this decision impact a young believer?**
- 4. Will this reflect my love for the Lord?**
- 5. What would my spiritual role model do?**

Jesus' Reward to the Church

Revelation 2:27-28 To all who are victorious, who obey me to the very end, To them I will give authority over all the nations. They will rule the nations with an iron rod and smash them like clay pots. They will have the same authority I received from my Father, and I will also give them the morning star! “Anyone with ears to hear must listen to the Spirit and understand what he is saying to the churches.

Dear Heavenly Father, in an increasingly secular society,
people are pressuring Christ Followers to just tolerate,
just go along, just compromise. But we hear your Word,
which says clearly, “Hold fast. No compromise.”
Thanks for grace and power to honor you in all things.
In Jesus' name. Amen.