



#5 "Thyatira – The Tolerant Church" [Revelation 2:18-28]

"And to the angel of the church in Thyatira write: 'The words of the Son of God, who has eyes like a flame of fire, and whose feet are like burnished bronze. "I know your works, your love and faith and service and patient endurance, and that your latter works exceed the first.

1. Their WORKS
2. Their LOVE
3. Their FAITH
4. Their SERVICE
5. Their ENDURANCE

But I have this against you, that you tolerate that woman Jezebel, who calls herself a prophetess and is teaching and seducing my servants to practice sexual immorality and to eat food sacrificed to idols. I gave her time to repent, but she refuses to repent of her sexual immorality. Behold, I will throw her onto a sickbed, and those who commit adultery with her I will throw into great tribulation, unless they repent of her works, and I will strike her children dead. And all the churches will know that I am he who searches mind and heart, and I will give to each of you according to your works.

- The Church In Thyatira TOLERATED False Teaching

*"Tolerance is a wonderful thing in the right place, but a very dangerous thing in the wrong place"*

## **Two Great Social & Cultural Temptations of the Day**

### 1. Sexual IMMORALITY

### 2. Eating Food Sacrificed to IDOLS

*"An idol is anything that absorbs you heart and imagination more than God." ~Timothy Keller~*

## **Characteristics of a False Teacher**

### 1. Deceptive And SECRETIVE

### 2. Focus On Personal GAIN

### 3. Corrupt Morals And SENSUALITY

*"Jezebels greatest sin was not her false teaching, but her failure to repent."*

But to the rest of you in Thyatira, who do not hold this teaching, who have not learned what some call the deep things of Satan, to you I say, I do not lay on you any other burden. Only hold fast what you have until I come. The one who conquers and who keeps my works until the end, to him I will give authority over the nations, <sup>27</sup> and he will rule them with a rod of iron, as when earthen pots are broken in pieces, even as I myself have received authority from my Father. And I will give him the morning star. He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches.'

### **Personal Application Questions**

- What, if anything, are you tolerating in your life that is not pleasing to God?
- How is the surrounding culture shaping your life in ways that are inconsistent with Jesus?
- Are there areas where you have allowed sexual immorality to creep into your life?

## **Life Group Questions**

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- Read Revelation 2:18-29.
- In the messages to the final four churches Roman persecution is not emphasized, but rather, deception leading to corruption that threatened to destroy them from within. What corruption was the church in Thyatira tolerating?
- Why might this passage name the offending woman "Jezebel?" How did both the Old Testament and New Testament Jezebels turn the people from worshiping the true God?
- How is physical adultery and sexual immorality linked to spiritual idolatry?
- Jesus commended the faith, love and works of the church in Thyatira, yet chastised them for their tolerance of Jezebel. What does that tell us about how seriously Jesus takes sin?
- Our culture is increasingly becoming saturated with immorality all around us. What are some ways we can live in the culture as witnesses to the love and truth of Jesus?
- How is God's grace revealed in his command to Jezebel?
- Digging Deeper - How can the Church be more watchful and cast away false prophets offering temptations or moral compromise instead of holiness?
- Share some of your reflection on the three personal application questions

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