



REVELATION SERIES

The Seven Letters

Thyatira: When Tolerance Traps the Church

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Intro: The responsibility to be a watchman: Ezekiel 33:7-9

Clay Christensen on why America needs the church
http://www.youtube.com/watch_popup?v=YjntXYDPw44&sns=em

Big Idea: The overriding value in America is tolerance—yet Jesus indicates that discernment is needed: the tolerance of evil *is evil*.

Revelation 2:18-23 ESV

18 "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.

19 I know your works, your love and faith and service and patient endurance, and that your latter works exceed the first.

20 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. **21** I gave her time to repent, but she refuses to repent of her sexual immorality. **22** 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, **23** 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 as your works deserve.

Be encouraged! Christ sees the good that you do for him. (19)

Be careful! Christ also sees when you tolerate evil. (20)

Be warned! The chance to repent won't last forever.(21-23)

Be strong! As you resist evil, hold on until Christ comes. (24-28)

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Revelation 2:18-29

Discussion: What do you think about this statement: The overriding value in America is tolerance, yet Jesus indicates that discernment is needed; the tolerance of evil is evil.

What is tolerance? In what ways is the American church tolerating evil? Where is LifeSpring church on the following scale: Why? Tolerant.....Grace-filled.....Judgmental

Discovery Why do you think Jesus emphasizes His eyes and His feet? 18

How was Thyatira different from Ephesus? Compare 2: 2-4 and 19

How does Jesus' perfect knowledge of your deeds and love impact your relationship with Christ?

What is Jesus' response to idolatry & sexual immorality (porneusai) in the church? 20-23

Compare the Church at Thyatira with the Church at Corinth (1 Cor 5). What do you see? Knowing that the Church can be ridiculed by the world, and will be judged by Christ, how should the church respond to sexual immorality?

What does it mean that Jesus says "I AM he who searches hearts and minds, and I will repay each of you according to your deeds.?"

What will the judgment for believers be like? 2 Cor 5:9-10;1 Cor 3:10-17 John 5:20-22

Encouragement What encouragement does Jesus give to those who are obedient to God's will? 24-29

Today
Future

Accountability Discipleship is about transformation, not information: share with others what steps of obedience you will begin to take or continue to take.