

STANDING FOR TRUTH WHILE DISARMING THE ENEMY



Theme: RETHINKING CHURCH

Word: Revelation 2:12-17

Message to Pergamum

¹² "And to the angel of the church in Pergamum write:

The One who has the sharp two-edged sword says this:

¹³ 'I know where you dwell, where Satan's throne is; and you hold firmly to My name, and did not deny My faith even in the days of Antipas, My witness, My faithful one, who was killed among you, where Satan dwells. ¹⁴ But I have a few things against you, because you have some there who hold the teaching of Balaam, who kept teaching Balak to put a stumbling block before the sons of Israel, to eat things sacrificed to idols and to commit sexual immorality. ¹⁵ So you too, have some who in the same way hold to the teaching of the Nicolaitans. ¹⁶ Therefore repent; or else I am coming to you quickly, and I will wage war against them with the sword of My mouth. ¹⁷ The one who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches. To the one who overcomes, I will give some of the hidden manna, and I will give him a white stone, and a new name written on the stone which no one knows except the one who receives it.'

Our commitment to live for Christ does not remove our responsibility for being our brother's keeper by holding members accountable when they teach false doctrine. When we seek to keep the church's doctrine pure, Christ blesses us not just here on earth but also eternally.

Discussion:

1. Share an activity in your daily living that requires your examination. How do you spot errors in these "checks" that you do?
2. Read Hebrews 3:12-13. When and how should you correct another brother/sister?
3. How do we hold each other accountable from teaching false doctrines in the church?

Prayer Points:

1. Thank God for the salvation gifted to us through his son Jesus Christ.
2. Pray for God's wisdom as you read his Word everyday – that by learning what is true, you will be able to discern false teachings, even in the church.
3. Pray that as we use the Bible to correct each other, this would lead us to repentance. May God's grace, love and mercy abound as we carefully do these things.