

Defending Truth in a Culture of Lies

Revelation 2:12-17

Purpose: To be prompted to examine our motives for following Jesus and to allow the Holy Spirit to reveal whether we are seeking the approval of other people, or the approval of Christ.

Group Discussion: What would happen if our nation was declared a “Christian nation” and Christianity were made the national religion? What would be good about that? What would not be so good?

1. (Verses 12-13) Jesus describes Himself as having the “*sharp, double-edged sword*”. Why do you think He chose to introduce Himself this way to this particular church?
2. In verse 13 Jesus says He knows the church lives “*where Satan’s throne is*,” yet still commends them for holding fast to His name. What does it feel like to follow Jesus in a place that pushes against your faith?
3. (Verse 13) What stands out to you about the church’s courage in staying faithful even after Antipas was killed? What would it look like for SBC to display that kind of steady faith today?
4. (Verse 14) Despite their courage under persecution, Jesus says He has “*a few things against*” the church. Why do you think it’s possible to be strong in one area of faith and weak in another?
5. (Verses 14-15) The “*teaching of Balaam*” involved leading people into idol worship and sexual immorality through compromise rather than direct attack. What’s the difference between outright rebellion and subtle compromise? Which one do you think is more dangerous for believers today?
6. (Verses 14-15) The church “*tolerated*” this teaching rather than necessarily practicing it themselves. Why do you think tolerance of wrong teaching or behavior is treated as seriously as participating in it?
7. (Verse 16) Jesus calls the church to repent, warning that He will act if they don’t. How would you describe repentance in your own words? Why is it an act of love rather than punishment?
8. (Verse 17) Jesus promises “*hidden manna*” to those who overcome. What are some “idol feasts” (things that feel normal but pull us from faithfulness) in our current culture?
9. (Verses 12-17) This letter shows a church that resisted external persecution but struggled with internal compromise. Which do you find more challenging in your own life? Standing firm under outside pressure, or staying faithful when no one is watching?