

PREACHING CURRICULUM

Purely Intolerant! Revelation 2:12-29

The Lord's call for His Church is to pursue truth and purity.

1 REVIEW THE SERMON

LEADER NOTES: Encourage your members to pull out their notes and review the main points of the sermon. (9-12 mins)

Read Revelation 2:12-17. How did Jesus commend the church in Pergamum? What did He have against this church? What was His solution? What was Jesus' promised blessing to them?

Read Revelation 2:18-29. What was the church in Thyatira doing well? What problem did Jesus warn them about? What course of action did He instruct them to pursue in order to deal with the problem? At the end of this letter, what did Jesus offer those who remained faithful to Him?

Summarize the main message Jesus gave to each of the two churches in this passage. What is the contemporary significance of each of these messages to the Church today?

2 ASSESS YOUR LIFE

LEADER NOTES: Evaluate the condition of your lives in relation to the truth from God's Word. Encourage heart examination. (12-15 mins)

Consider this statement: *"Each person has their own beliefs about God and faith. All religions basically teach the same thing anyway, so it doesn't matter what you believe as long as you are a good person and do what you believe is right."* What is your reaction to this statement? Do you agree or disagree? Why? How does this statement compare with what Jesus said to the churches in today's passage?

What are the most common examples of false teaching that you encounter on a regular basis? Why do you think that people are drawn to these teachings?

Have you been tolerating areas of idolatry or impurity in your own life? If so, how might you go about addressing these areas? **Leader's Note:** Due to the potentially sensitive nature of this question, it is advisable for the leader of the discussion to remind people that they need not and should not share the specific details of their situations unless it is appropriate to do so, and only with people who have a redemptive reason for knowing those details.

3 APPLY THE TRUTH

LEADER NOTES: Create a list of ways to close the gap between your lives and the truth of the Bible. Be practical and intentional. (12-15 mins)

What is God's solution to false teaching? See the following passages for some biblical input into this question: Colossians 3:22, Colossians 2:8, 2 Timothy 4:3, 2 Timothy 2:15 and Jeremiah 17:9.

How can we be appropriately intolerant of false teaching and impurity, especially considering that our culture values tolerance, diversity, and inclusiveness and condemns anything it perceives to be "intolerant", "discriminatory", "narrow-minded", and "bigoted"? Are there wise ways of doing this?

How can we pursue purity in our lives and in our communities, especially given the fact that our world is saturated with sexual immorality and temptations toward sexual sin abound?

4 COMMIT THIS WEEK

LEADER NOTES: Call your small group members to make a commitment and get the group working together to follow-up with each other. (9-12)

How will you pursue truth and purity this week? How will you encourage these things in the lives of others?