

re-Vision #4

The tolerant church

Revelation 2:18-29



Sermon points

1. The characteristic (v18)
2. The commendation (v19)
3. The criticism (v20)
4. The command (v21-24)
5. The conquerors (v25-29)



Discussion starter

How are churches today tempted to tolerate sin and be like the (non-Christian) world?



From the Bible

1. Which characteristic of Christ is highlighted in this letter? (cf. 1:12-16; 2:18, 23) What does the term "Son of God" signify? Compare with Psalm 2.
2. What does Jesus criticize the church for in v21? What would the nature of this person's teaching be?
3. What does Jesus warn for the false teacher and her followers (v22-23)?
4. What is the nature of the "deep things of Satan" (v24, cf. Genesis 3:1-5) and what is Jesus' command to the false teacher and her followers (v21-22)?



Think it through

- Read 2 Corinthians 5:9-13 and note how we are called to “judge” (hold accountable for their lifestyle) those inside the church, not those outside! Cf. 1 Peter 4:17

There is no condemnation for those in Christ (Romans 8:1). Therefore, Christians will never be condemned at the Final Judgment. The judgment that God's people face is the purifying, refining, disciplining grace of God. We also remember that many people in the visible church are not actually part of the people of God because they have never repented of sin and trusted in Jesus.

- How does wrong theology promote wrong living? (and vice versa!)
- We become Christians by repenting and believing the gospel, and we grow as Christians by continuing to repent and believe the gospel. The normal Christian life is a lifestyle of repentance and faith. Yet, many churches and ministries are calling Christians to “deeper things” and sharing “secret insights” for a higher walk with God. Why is this so dangerous?

Vision and Values feedback:

At our **Vision and Values workshop** on Saturday 4 February we reminded ourselves of our vision (our goal) and shared objectives (what we will do to achieve our goal) as a church. Church members also discussed and agreed on 7 core values that we hope will define HOW we live out our faith together.



Prayer

Almighty God, heavenly Father, we confess that we have sinned against You, in our thoughts, words, and deeds and in what we have left undone. Lord have mercy on us, forgive us our sins and help us that we may serve You better and please You more through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Pray through our Vision & Values and ask God to make this more and more true for us as a church family.



Our vision

We want to see more and more people come to know Jesus and grow in Jesus!



Shared objectives

Proclaiming God's Word
Preparing God's people
Prompted by love
Persevering in love



Core values

Love
Service
Integrity
Missional
Intentional
Unity in diversity
Bible & gospel centred



Love

In order to model Christ's sacrificial love, we put the needs of others first by showing patience and kindness.
(John 13:35)



Service

We are members of Christ's body made up of many different parts and each having a vital role to play, therefore we serve each other as Christ served us.
(Matthew 20:28, 1 Corinthians 12:12)



Integrity

We seek to imitate Christ's supreme example of integrity, uphold the truth even in the face of adversity, be honest, and always do what we say we will do.
(Proverbs 10:9)



Missional

We are committed to bringing in Christ's lost sheep. Through word, deed, prayer and financial support we endeavour to share the gospel in our suburb and across the world. This will often mean using creative ideas and practical service.
(John 10:16)



Intentional

In every situation we are purposeful ambassadors for Christ in thought, word and deed.
(2 Corinthians 5:20)



Unity in diversity

We value people from all backgrounds, cultures and circumstances as we live out our unity in Christ.
(Ephesians 2:12-14, Galatians 3:28)



Bible & Gospel Centred

God's Word is our highest authority in life and doctrine. The good news about Jesus is the focal point of all our teaching and ministries.
(John 17:17)