

re-Vision #3

The immoral church

Revelation 2:12-17



Sermon points

1. The characteristic (v12)
2. The commendation (v13)
3. The criticism (v14-15)
4. The command (v16-17a)
5. The conquerors (v17b)



Discussion starter

How are Christians and the church today tempted to be like the world?



From the Bible

1. Why is Christ's Word symbolized as a sharp, two-edged sword? (1:16, 2:12)
Cf. Hebrews 4:12
2. Why was Pergamum, which built the first temple in Asia dedicated to the Imperial Cult, likened to Satan's throne? (v13) Cf. Genesis 3:1-7

3. What was the teaching of Balaam and the Nicolaitans? (v14-15)
Cf. Numbers 25:1-3

4. What was Jesus' command to the erring church members? (v16)



Think it through

1. The church is called to be counter-cultural. Christians are to be in the world, but not of the world. (John 17:14-18) We aim to reach the world by being different from the world, not like the world. Would you agree? Is this true for our church?
2. How are churches and denominations today following the teaching of Balaam?
3. What will repenting and living under the rule of Christ mean for you?



Prayer

Almighty and most merciful Father,
we have strayed from Your ways like lost sheep,
we have left undone what we ought to have done,
and we have done what we ought not to have done.
We have followed our own ways and our own desires
and we have neglected and broken Your holy laws.
Have mercy on us Lord.
Restore those who repent and confess their sins
according to Your promises declared in Jesus Christ our Lord.
Grant, merciful Father, for His sake, that hereafter
we may live a righteous and obedient life,
to the glory of Your Holy Name. Amen.