



**Part 4:
...to Christians in a
Culture of Tolerance
Rev. 2:18-29**

To the angel of the church in Thyatira write: These are the words of the Son of God, whose eyes are like blazing fire and whose feet are like burnished bronze. Rev. 2:18

Jesus' message here: " _____ "

4 ways to stay discerning about false teachers:

1. Don't _____

I know your deeds, your love and faith, your service and perseverance, and that you are now doing more than you did at first. Nevertheless, I have this against you: You tolerate that woman Jezebel, who calls herself a prophetess. Rev. 2:19

Note: Good, helpful people can be _____

2. Don't _____

*By her **teaching** she misleads my servants into sexual immorality and the eating of food sacrificed to idols. Rev. 2:20*

Three common signs of false teachers:

• They grab _____

*...who **calls herself** a prophetess... Rev. 2:20*

• They refuse _____

I have given her time to repent... but she is unwilling. Rev. 2:21

• They claim to teach _____

*...her teaching ... Satan's **so-called deep secrets**... Rev. 2:24*

3. Don't confuse _____ with _____

*I have **given her time** to repent of her immorality, but she is unwilling. So I will cast her on a bed of suffering, and I will make those who commit adultery with her suffer intensely, unless they repent of her ways. Rev. 2:21,22*

Prosperity may show God's _____, not God's _____.

4. Don't _____ your faith

I will not impose any other burden on you: Only hold on to what you have until I come. To him who overcomes and does my will to the end, I will give authority over the nations... Rev. 2:25,26

Where's the balance between being too tolerant on the one hand, and too judgmental on the other?

Truth without love = _____

Love without truth = _____

Truth with love = Balance; Christ-like attitude

Questions to help you stay discerning

1. How does this relate to the core teachings of the Bible?

"In the essentials, unity. In the non-essentials, diversity.

In all things, charity (love)." –Augustine

2. What would my spiritual role models advise? (Have they addressed it?)

3. Does this distract me (or others) from a pure and simple devotion to Christ?

*But I fear that, just as Eve was deceived by the serpent, somehow you will be led away from your **pure and simple devotion to Christ.** 2 Cor. 11:3 NLT*

Daily Meditations

This week's memory verse:

*But I fear that, just as Eve was deceived by the serpent, somehow you will be led away from your **pure and simple devotion to Christ.** 2 Cor. 11:3 NLT*

Monday

Look back over your notes and read Revelation 2:18-28. What are the strengths of this church?

What is its main weakness?

How is the problem in Thyatira like (and unlike) that in Pergamum (the previous church)?

How do you relate to the strengths and weaknesses of this church?

Who or what has played a role similar to this "Jezebel" in your life? (You don't need to name names publicly!) How did you escape their influence on you?

Ask Jesus to help you see what He wants you to hear in His message to this church.

Tuesday

The theme of the letter to Thyatira is *guard against false teachers*. Do you ever feel a tension between being too tolerant and too judgmental? On what issues do you feel the most tension?

Read this week's memory verse. Where do you think Christians today are being led into false teaching that distracts from a pure and simple devotion to Christ?

Paul addresses the danger of false teachers in 1 Timothy 1:3-7. What are some of the characteristics of false teaching, according to these verses?

How is a true teacher's goal (verse 5) different from the result of false teaching (verses 4, 6)?

Ask God to help you distinguish between the essentials and the non-essentials of the faith. Thank Him for His word and His Spirit which guides us into all truth!

Wednesday

Peter is very blunt about the dangers of false teachers in 2 Peter 2:1-22. What are some of the characteristics of false teachers? (See verses 3, 10, 14, 15, 18, 19)

Why do you think Peter, who knew Jesus personally, is so upset about teachers who distort the teachings of Jesus?

Do you think Christians tend to be gullible when it comes to teachers within the church? Why or why not? Why are false teachers tolerated in churches today?

Ask God to help you discern between false teachers and true.

Thursday

Read Matt 7:15-23. What does Jesus Himself tell us to watch out for? How are we to recognize false teachers, according to verse 16?

What is the difference between a teacher's *gifts* and a teacher's *fruit*?

If prophesying, driving out demons, and performing miracles is not what Jesus means by "doing the will of my Father", then what is?

Ask God to help you discern the truth! Thank Him for His concern for you.

Friday

Get ready for this weekend's message by reading Rev. 3:1-6. What's the problem with this church?

What questions would you like to have answered about this text?

How does your reputation compare with your reality?

Ask God to help you strengthen the areas in your spiritual life that are weak.

Saturday

Complete any devotions you may have missed and polish up the memory verse. Please pray for the services this weekend. Thanks!