

When the Church Becomes like the World Revelation 2:12-14a

Purpose of Discussion: To reflect on the pressure to conform in our lives and discuss ways to find joy through obedience.

Sermon Refresher: Jesus commends the church in Pergamum for their faithfulness despite persecution from outside the church but warns them about temptation breeding within the church.

Icebreaker: What typically comes to mind when you think of the book of Revelation?

Transition: Shay discussed how context is important to keep in mind when studying the book of Revelation. Throughout this book of the Bible, it can be easy to be distracted by the symbolism that doesn't seem necessarily familiar. Keep in mind what Jesus's message is to us both as a church and personally.

Discussion:

1. Read [Revelation 2:12-13](#).

"To the angel of the church in Pergamum write:

These are the words of him who has the sharp, double-edged sword. I know where you live—where Satan has his throne. Yet you remain true to my name. You did not renounce your faith in me, ^snot even in the days of Antipas, my faithful witness, who was put to death in your city—where Satan lives."

How are you being faithful to Christ in your witness where you work, in your family, or with your friends? Do people around you know that you are a Christian? Which of those areas (work, family, friends) do you see room to grow or challenge yourself as you interact with those that may not know Jesus?

THE **crossing** **small groups**

2. Shay discussed how the church let heresy seep in to their lives by compromising the Gospel with outside messages from their culture. What messages of our culture do you feel need to be guarded from seeping in to our lives?
3. The church of Pergamum began to compromise by believing they weren't under the law anymore, rather they only focused on grace. This idea of "pushing the envelope of liberty into license" was discussed throughout the sermon. How do you compromise with your sin? Where do you push the envelope of your liberty? Where do you most feel the pressure to conform with our culture in your life?

Digging Deeper: Keeping in mind that we rely on God's grace, Shay asked, "Are we in the fight?" Do you care about fighting your sin or do you feel the tendency to drift spiritually and become apathetic? As a group, how can you encourage each other in this? What does it look like to fight sin?

4. Read Revelation 2:17.

"Whoever has ears, let them hear what the Spirit says to the churches. To the one who is victorious, I will give some of the hidden manna. I will also give that person a white stone with a new name written on it, known only to the one who receives it."

What is encouraging to you about this verse?

5. Discuss this quote: "Repentance is a doorway back to joy." When was a time in your life you experienced the joy that comes from obedience? What was difficult about this experience? What made obedience worth it?

Sharing and Prayer: Pray for our small group to be aware of the different temptations to compromise with our sin and to repent of the ways in which we have grown comfortable with spiritually drifting. Ask God for the strength to find joy in obedience. Ask God to give us glimpses of who he is transforming both us and the people around us to be.