



Thyatira: More Tolerant Than God

Revelation 2:18-29 (ESV)

“And to the angel of the church in Thyatira write: ‘The words of the Son of God, who has eyes like a flame of fire, and whose feet are like burnished bronze. ¹⁹ “I know your works, your love and faith and service and patient endurance, and that your latter works exceed the first. ²⁰ But I have this against you, that you tolerate that woman Jezebel, who calls herself a prophetess and is teaching and seducing my servants to practice sexual immorality and to eat food sacrificed to idols. ²¹ I gave her time to repent, but she refuses to repent of her sexual immorality. ²² Behold, I will throw her onto a sickbed, and those who commit adultery with her I will throw into great tribulation, unless they repent of her works, ²³ and I will strike her children dead. And all the churches will know that I am he who searches mind and heart, and I will give to each of you according to your works. ²⁴ But to the rest of you in Thyatira, who do not hold this teaching, who have not learned what some call the deep things of Satan, to you I say, I do not lay on you any other burden. ²⁵ Only hold fast what you have until I come. ²⁶ The one who conquers and who keeps my works until the end, to him I will give authority over the nations, ²⁷ and he will rule them with a rod of iron, as when earthen pots are broken in pieces, even as I myself have received authority from my Father. ²⁸ And I will give him the morning star. ²⁹ He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches.’

We are becoming more tolerant than God when:

I. We have redefined tolerance.

Traditional tolerance: Giving people freedom to have different beliefs and practices while at the same time allowing others the freedom to propose a different opinion or belief in humility and love.

Tolerance redefined: Everyone is right no matter what they believe or what they do and anyone who expresses a different viewpoint is seen as intolerant.

- A church that tolerates what God doesn’t is a church in jeopardy of losing its power.
- As members of the church we have both individual responsibility for ourselves and a corporate responsibility for the other members of the body to be intolerant of sin.
- Are we tolerating things that Jesus doesn’t tolerate?

2. We don’t come under authority but we become the authority. (Revelation 2:18a)

- Jesus has the authority to define truth for the church.

Three things we can do with scripture:

- * Come under its authority.
- * Reject it.
- * Change it.

- We don’t change the Bible; the Bible changes us.
- In the church, sometimes theological problems are just a cover for immorality.

3. We fear the wrong judgment. (Revelation 2:18b; Matthew 10:28; Proverbs 29:25)

- Tolerating sin may not cost us anything in the present, but everything in eternity.
- Whose judgment do we fear?