

Thyatira – When Christians Compromise The Truth Revelation 2:18-29

Ephesians 4:15 “but, speaking the truth in love, may grow up in all things into Him who is the head—Christ...”

- Proclaiming the truth without love seems to be **mean**.
- Loving everyone without communicating the truth is **meaningless**.

There is nothing more loving than **telling the truth**.

Jesus comes to Church – This has been the theme of the series we have been studying for the last three weeks. Matthew 16 told us that Jesus is building his church and Revelation 2-3 tells us that Jesus comes to do a regular inspection.

ABOUT THYATIRA

Thyatira is familiar to us because of Lydia the seller of purple who was from Thyatira. If you remember Lydia was the first convert in Macedonia and helped found the Philippian church. She was a seller of purple. Thyatira’s main industry was the production of wool and dyed goods (especially purple goods, dyed with purple dye extracted from the Murex – a small snail only found in the waters off that part of Northeastern Turkey). Thyatira was famous for its numerous guilds or labor unions. There were unions not only for the dye industry but also for linen workers, makers of outer garments, dyers, leather workers, tanners, potters, bakers, slave dealers, and bronze smiths. Lydia probably represented her guild in Philippi (Acts 16:14), showing that Thyatira’s market extended across the Aegean Sea to mainland Greece.

The pressure faced by the Christians in Thyatira came from the guilds. To hold a job or run a business, it was necessary to be a member of a guild. Each guild had its patron deity, in whose honor feasts were held—complete with meat sacrificed to idols and sexual immorality usually turning into orgies. Christians faced the dilemma of attending those feasts or possibly losing their livelihood.

So the reality of Thyatira was that if you obeyed the Lord concerning personal purity and holiness then it was sure to put your job in jeopardy. The Christians were between a rock and a hard place so to speak. Better said, they were making a choice between obeying God and compromising their faith. So what was the church to do? Could they remain faithful to the Lord and also fit into the cultural debauchery and decadence of their day? Can the believer actually serve God with his spirit and mind and allow his body to do what ever it desires or considers necessary to survive?

Verse 18 reminds of how Jesus is comes to the church trying to be relevant by compromising its message.

- He has divine knowledge – His is doing eye witness inspection
- He has penetrating vision – eyes are a flame of fire -
- He gives just judgment – His feet are like burnished brass.

1) Jesus is delighted in a church when (verse 19)

a) Love is **real** – Love is more than an emotion. *John 13:35 By this shall all men know that you are my disciples if you have love one for another.*

i) Thankfully Grace Church is not like that.

b) Faith is required - actually the word is faithfulness.

c) Ministry reaches out - they were serving.

d) Perseverance **holds out**

2) Jesus is disgusted with a Church (verses 20-23)

a) Because of false **doctrine** -

i) When **who teaches** doesn't matter –

ii) When **what is taught** doesn't matter. DO YOU SEE WHAT IS HAPPENING? IN PERGAMUS THE CULTURE WAS CREEPING INTO THE PEOPLE IN THE **PEWS**; IN THYATIRA CULTURALLY ADDAPTED MESSAGES WERE BEING PROCLAIMED FROM THE **PULPIT**. Wow!

iii) When **how people live** doesn't matter (Titus 2:11-14) Turn to it.

b) Because of faulty **discernment**

- i) We assume God's **patience has no limit** (Isaiah 55:6)
 - ii) We conclude God will **never punish us** (Hebrews 10:31)
 - iii) We convince ourselves that God **can't see us** (Jeremiah 17:9-10)
- 3) Jesus is dedicated to the **remnant** (verses 24-29) to the "overcomers" once again there are promises made. Who is an overcomer by the way? *1 John 5:4-5*
- a) He **requires** faithfulness to his works (Ephesians 2:10)
 - b) He **rewards** obedience to his will
 - i) Amazing **position** (Luke 22:28-30) *"But you are those who have continued with Me in My trials. [29](#) And I bestow upon you a kingdom, just as My Father bestowed one upon Me, [30](#) that you may eat and drink at My table in My kingdom, and sit on thrones judging the twelve tribes of Israel."*
 - ii) Astounding **power** – to rule
 - iii) Awesome **possession** – Jesus. Revelation 22:16 *"I, Jesus, have sent My angel to testify to you these things in the churches. I am the Root and the Offspring of David, the Bright and Morning Star."*

So in Thyatira and innumerable churches today the message is changing to accommodate the society in which we live. We have readjusted God to our low living. The only problem is that the message is still the same. Repent!

Mark 8:36-37 For what will it profit a man if he gains the whole world, and loses his own soul?³⁷ Or what will a man give in exchange for his soul?