

Acceptable Sins

Revelation 2:18-29

Introduction:

1. What does the perfect church look like on this earth? Is there a perfect church? Most, if not all Christians will agree that there is not a perfect church on this earth, one without any issues.
 - a. Church at Corinth had all the gifts (1 Cor. 1), but was plagued with issues.
 - b. Although there is one church in the Book of Revelation that does not receive any condemnation it does not mean that it was perfect. Humans make up the church and as long as humans are imperfect there will be churches with issues of one kind or another.
2. Revelation 2:18-29 introduces us to the church at Thyatira.
 - a. The church at Thyatira is like many churches today: many good virtues and some bad, some Christians dedicated to the the service of the Lord, and others dedicated to their own service.
 - b. What can we learn from the church at Thyatira? Strengthen was is weak and continue doing what is good.
- I. What does Jesus know? (2:18-19)
 - A. The description of Christ having eyes like a flame of fire and feet like burnished bronze means Jesus knows all and sees all.
 - B. He knows their good deeds:
 1. Their love is great
 2. Their faith is strong
 3. Their service (love your neighbor as yourself) is superb
 - C. It wasn't always that way, "deeds of late are greater than at first" (vs. 19)
 - D. Application: Sometimes we can get off to a slow start in our relationship with God.
 1. Not as zealous as we could be, not loving as we should, not serving the brethren and mankind as God intended - but as we should grow and strive to get better. (Philippians 1:27; 2 Corinthians 13:11; Galatians 6:9)
 2. The church at Thyatira became better at serving the Lord. The church must have been known among the community for their salt and light.
 3. We should always focus on growing our faith, love, and service.

4. The work we do as a church is a result of our faith, love and service, but we should never stop where we are, but continue to grow so that our deeds today can be better than the ones we did yesterday.

II. Tolerating sin (2:20-21)

A. What could possibly be wrong with a church like Thyatira?

1. They tolerated sin. (1 Cor. 15:33; Jude 1:4 -lasciviousness, wantonness, unbridled lust, outrageousness, shamelessness, insolence, and not just limited to sexual immorality - When the church tolerates sin she runs the risk of becoming sin.)
2. The church tolerated a bad and evil influence in the church, in this case a prophetess whom Jesus called Jezebel.
 - a. Ahab was the worst king ever, but his wife was worse. Jezebel influenced Ahab to build temples to Baal, persecute God's prophets, and worship foreign deities. (1 Kings 16)
 - b. The Jezebel at Thyatira influenced the church to wink at sin (to not see sin as sin anymore, immorality was no longer considered to be such a bad thing).

B. There are many sins we deem as acceptable, not that bad, no big deal.

1. The reason is because the world accepts these sins and so does the church.
2. Sex before marriage, living together, divorce, pornography, affairs, homosexuality, modesty.
3. Many social sins have become acceptable

C. One of the reasons it is so important to not to accept sins is not only because God condemns these activities, but also because we will become callous toward these sins. One of the dangers of repeated sin is that we commit those sinful acts without any guilt or remorse. We no longer care. Jesus had given them time to repent, but sin had become so ingrained in them that they refused to repent ("I don't see anything wrong with...")

D. Application: All the good deeds the church was doing was overshadowed by tolerating and even participating in Jezebel's sins. If we are going to live for Jesus then we need to stop sinning, to stop approving of sin, to blush at sin (1 Corinthians 15:34)

III. Jesus' warning (2:22-25)

- A. Unless they repent of Jezebel's sins, Jesus is going to come against them in judgment.

1. "...unless repent of her deeds..." They had committed the same sins Jezebel committed, she encouraged them to do it, no one stopped her, so the rest of the church was now committing the same sins.
 2. Revelation 2:22-23
- B. There were some who had not soiled their garments, they are told to keep the faith, be strong and continue resisting the deeds of Satan. Doesn't tell them to leave, but to hold fast!
- IV. The conquerers (2:26-29)
- A. Promises to those who conquer (remain faithful until the end)
1. Authority to rule (c.f. 1000 year reign in Revelation 20:4-6; **2 Timothy 2:10-12**)
 2. Given the Morning Star (**Revelation 22:16**). Those who hold fast and remain faithful until the end will be given Jesus, the light to navigate during dark times and ultimately have victory.

Conclusion

1. Continue doing the good deeds we are already doing, do them better if possible.
2. Do not practice the sins of Jezebel.
3. Love each other enough to correct sin, and never tolerate sin until it becomes acceptable.
4. Would you like victory and the Morning Star?