



Sermon Discussion Guide

WHEN TOLERANCE LEADS TO TRIBULATION

Revelation 2:18-29 (Thyatira)

Pastor Kevin, 10/2/22

Big Idea: Though a church may do many things that Jesus praises, all can be undone by an “undiscerning and blindly affirming” tolerance.

1. All tolerance isn't bad,¹ and yet “it is possible for *tolerance* to be the single banner waving over your church such that it moves from something that might be a qualified good to being something that is a qualified evil.” Have you ever been accused of intolerance? What are some faithful responses to have ready in light of this accusation?
2. Kevin read one local church's statement of faith.² What things might happen in a congregation that lead to a drift into theological liberalism? Lest we think this can't happen to our church, we are all “prone to wander.” How can we safeguard our church from slipping into error?
3. Kevin said, “If you want your kids to turn away from the church or true biblical fidelity, then be a rank hypocrite and make them do things that you don't do.” What are some practical ways that you can be a godly example your kids this week?³
4. Kevin said, “You don't have to go looking for compromise; compromise will find you.” Have you ever been placed in a situation of compromise when you didn't expect it? How did God meet you in that moment?
5. Temptation in Thyatira came through this false prophetess, Jezebel. Does God show Jezebel grace or justice, or both? How do you respond when you are confronted about sin in your life?⁴
6. Kevin said, “When you don't love what Jesus loves and hate what Jesus hates, you don't want the real Jesus (...) You want a Jesus who looks like you or me. Not the real thing.” Read Matt 5:8. How does this inform how we think about Paul's admonition to “keep a close eye on your life and doctrine?”

¹ Kevin mentioned (1) legal tolerance and (2) tolerance on lesser matters.

² “We believe in you. At _____, we have no statement of beliefs because our core belief is in soul freedom and the liberty of conscience, meaning our members are free to believe whatever they choose. We have a covenant that informs our life together, which is the only statement of agreement our members are asked to make.”

³ If you don't have kids, then what about those around you who know you stand with Christ?

⁴ This question came from Douglas Connelly's Bible Study on the 7 Churches of Revelation.