



*Implosion Prevention—The 21st Century Challenge of the Church
Pergamos—Moral Impurity (Part 2)*

Pastor Dan Turpin WestCoastChurch.com

Objective Sentence: Everyone can live a life that pleases God by avoiding the pitfalls that the five of the seven churches in Revelation fell into.

Read Revelation 2:12-17 And to the angel of the church in Pergamos write—These things says He who has the sharp two-edged sword: ¹³“I know your works, and where you dwell, where Satan’s throne *is*. And you hold fast to My name, and did not deny My faith even in the days in which Antipas *was* My faithful martyr, who was killed among you, where Satan dwells. ¹⁴ But I have a few things against you, because you have there those who hold the doctrine of Balaam, who taught Balak to put a stumbling block before the children of Israel, to eat things sacrificed to idols, and to commit sexual immorality. ¹⁵ Thus you also have those who hold the doctrine of the Nicolaitans, which thing I hate. ¹⁶ Repent, or else I will come to you quickly and will fight against them with the sword of My mouth. ¹⁷ “He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches. To him who overcomes I will give some of the hidden manna to eat. And I will give him a white stone, and on the stone a new name written which no one knows except him who receives *it*.

Pergamum, one of the most prominent cities of Asia ... a wealthy city ... a religious center with many temples devoted to idol worship of Athena ... Dion/i/sus, and Zeus were prominent. It was a college town—the Harvard of Asia—a center of learning where a major university was located. One of its famous treasures was a large library of two hundred thousand volumes, later sent to Egypt as a gift from Anthony to Cleopatra. This city was famous for creating paper or parchment; the paper itself being called pergamena. The great and amazingly beautiful altar of Zeus that once stood in Pergamos is now on display in the Berlin Museum..

Prophetical and Individual Application: God does not change; human nature does not and has not changed; the devil has not changed and the church remains the same. These seven churches typify the communities of believers throughout history The conditions of these churches in Asia are a reflection of churches then and now. The churches are a reflection of the challenges, weaknesses and vulnerabilities that churches and believers have always and will always face.

William Booth, Founder of Salvation Army: I consider that the chief dangers which confront the coming century will be religion without the Holy Spirit, Christianity without Christ, forgiveness without repentance, salvation without regeneration, politics without God, and heaven without hell.

- I. **Idolatry** (*Rev. 2:13-15* *I know your works, and where you dwell, where Satan's throne is. And you hold fast to My name, and did not deny My faith even in the days in which Antipas was My faithful martyr, who was killed among you, where Satan dwells. ¹⁴ But I have a few things against you, because you have there those who hold the doctrine of Balaam, who taught Balak to put a stumbling block before the children of Israel, to eat things sacrificed to idols, and to commit sexual immorality. ¹⁵ Thus you also have those who hold the doctrine of the Nicolaitans, which thing I hate.*)
 - A. **Pastor Dan:** *In a book called The Acts of Antipas it states that the Apostle John ordained Antipas as Bishop of Pergamos during the reign of the Roman emperor (81-96 A.D.) Domitian in 92 A.D. Antipas was brought before a statue and told to swear that Caesar was God. He refused and the Roman official said, "Antipas, don't you know that the whole world is against you?" Antipas replied, "Then I am against the whole world."*
 1. **The World** (*1 Jn. 2:13-18* *Do not love the world or the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. ¹⁶ For all that is in the world—the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life—is not of the Father but is of the world. ¹⁷ And the world is passing away, and the lust of it; but he who does the will of God abides forever.*)
 - a. **1 Jn. 2:18** *Little children, it is the last hour; and as you have heard that the Antichrist is coming, even now many antichrists have come, by which we know that it is the last hour. (Gay Marriage is only the beginning; the world will not be happy until the message of Christ is eradicated from the face of the earth.)*
 - b. **Russell Grigg:** *Few ideas have done more harm to the human race in the last one hundred and fifty years than the theory of evolution and the eugenics teaching of Sir Francis Galton, Charles Darwin's cousin. The teaching of these two men led the way for the Theory of Evolution to be taught in our public schools—brain-washing young minds into thinking there is no God; God is dead and we came from nowhere and are going nowhere. They say that there is no right or wrong, no life after death moral compass to direct us. Galton founded the evolutionary pseudo-science of eugenics. Today, ethnic cleansing, the use of abortion to eliminate wanted babies, defective babies, infanticide (killing a child within a year of birth), euthanasia, and the harvesting of unborn babies for research purposes all have a common foundation in the survival-of-the-fittest theory of eugenics. After Darwin's *Origin of Species* was published in 1859 Galton's wrote*

to Darwin, ‘The appearance of your *Origin of Species* formed a real crisis in my life; your book drove away the constraint of my old superstition [i.e. religious arguments based on design] as if it had been a nightmare and was the first to give me freedom of thought. He believed that talent, character, intellect, etc. were all inherited from one’s ancestors, as was also any lack of these qualities. Thus the poor were not hapless victims of their circumstances, but were paupers because they were biologically inferior. Galton believed that humans, like animals, could and should be selectively bred. In 1883, he coined the term ‘eugenics’ [Greek: εὖ (*eu*) meaning ‘well’ and γένος (*genos*) meaning ‘kind’ or ‘offspring’] for the study of ways of improving the physical and mental characteristics of the human race. Galton enlarged on all these ideas and proposed that a system of arranged marriages between men of distinction and women of wealth would eventually produce a gifted race. To see what survival of the fittest and eugenics looks like when practiced by one single nation then look at what Hitler did during WW II.

- c. **Col. 2:6-9** As you therefore have received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk in Him,⁷ rooted and built up in Him and established in the faith, as you have been taught, abounding in it with thanksgiving casting down arguments.⁸ Beware lest anyone cheat you through philosophy and empty deceit, according to the tradition of men, according to the basic principles of the world, and not according to Christ.⁹ For in Him dwells all the fullness of the Godhead bodily;¹⁰ and you are complete in Him, who is the head of all principality and power.
- d. **1 Tim. 4:1-2** Now the Spirit expressly says that in latter times some will depart from the faith, giving heed to deceiving spirits and doctrines of demons,² speaking lies in hypocrisy, having their own conscience seared with a hot iron Sin desensitizes us to the things of God.
- e. **2 Tim. 3:1-5** You should know this, Timothy, that in the last days there will be very difficult times.² For people will love only themselves and their money. They will be boastful and proud, scoffing at God, disobedient to their parents, and ungrateful. They will consider nothing sacred.³ They will be unloving and unforgiving; they will slander others and have no self-control. They will be cruel and hate what is good.⁴ They will betray their friends, be reckless, be puffed up with pride, and love pleasure rather than God.⁵ They will act religious, but they will reject the power that could make them godly. Stay away from people like that!

2. **The Flesh** *1 Cor. 6:9-11* Do you not know that the un-righteous will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived. Neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor homosexuals, nor sodomites [catamite—a boy or young man who was the intimate companion of a young man in ancient Greece and Rome],¹⁰ nor thieves, nor covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers [a person who verbally assaults others, a person with a contentious attitude] nor extortioners will inherit the kingdom of God.¹¹ And such were some of you. But you were washed, but you were sanctified, but you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus and by the Spirit of our God).

- a. **Oswald Chambers:** Jesus Christ came to make us holy, not to tell us to be holy; He came to do for us what we could not do for ourselves.
- b. **1 Pet. 1:15-16** As He who called you is holy, you also be holy in all your conduct,¹⁶ because it is written, “Be holy, for I am holy.

- c. **Gal. 5:16** Walk in the Spirit and you will not fulfill the lust of the flesh. **Ro. 5:5** They who walk according to the flesh set their minds on the things of the flesh and they who walk according to the Spirit set their minds on the things of the Spirit.
- d. **1 Pet. 2:1-3** Get rid of all evil behavior. Be done with all deceit, hypocrisy, jealousy, and all unkind speech. ² Like newborn babies, you must crave pure spiritual milk of God's word so that you will grow into a full experience of salvation. Cry out for this nourishment, ³ now that you have had a taste of the Lord's kindness
- e. *Pastor Dan:* God did not give us His commands to show us how bad we are; He gave us His commands to show how great He is by transforming us into what He said we could become and empowering us to do what He said we can do through Him. (Scriptures I love to hate)
- f. *Pastor Dan:* The Ten Commandments are windows the nature and soul of God, telling us what He is like and how we can walk in relationship with Him. They are also a give us insight into what we can become and do through Him. The power to keep every command is provided by the One who gave us every command to keep.
- g. **1 Thess. 4:3-7** For this is the will of God, your sanctification: that you should abstain from sexual immorality; ⁴ that each of you should know how to possess his own vessel in sanctification and honor, ⁵ not in passion of lust, like the Gentiles who do not know God; ⁶ that no one should take advantage of and defraud his brother in this matter, because the Lord *is* the avenger of all such, as we also forewarned you and testified. ⁷ For God did not call us to uncleanness, but in holiness. ⁸ Therefore he who rejects *this* does not reject man, but God, who has also given^[a] us His Holy Spirit! It is the will of God that you should be sanctified
- h. **Ro. 12:1-2** I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, *which is* your reasonable service. ² And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what *is* that good and acceptable and perfect will of God
- i. *Mike Bickel:* The way to free the heart from the dominion of sin is by delighting in God. Holiness is a superior pleasure that transcends that sin can offer us.
- j. *E. Stanley Jones:* The purity God demands is impossible unless we can be remade from within, and that is what Jesus Christ undertakes to do through the atonement.

Closing and Invitation: Daniel and my creative solution of solving a dangerous diaper problem. God does not just want to forgive us for our diaper problems; He wants to clean us up.

If you come to the Lord seeking forgiveness alone; you have not gone far enough. God forgives us and that is wonderful, but mercy isn't enough to deter or keep us from yielding to the same indulgences again and again. If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us and cleanse us from all unrighteousness (**1 John 1:9**). When we acknowledge our inability to cope with addiction or weakness and begin seeking God, we are on our way to conquering the problems that dominate us. James 5:15 proclaims (Amplified Bible), "Confess to one another

your faults—your slips, your false steps, your offenses, your sins; and pray also for one another, that you may be healed and restored—to a spiritual tone of mind and heart.”

God’s power will eventually destroy our passion for wrongdoing. It’s a process that never ends. Seek forgiveness, develop godly habits and move forward in relationship with Christ. Embrace God’s nature by hiding His Word in your heart.