



Implosion Prevention—21st Century Challenge
Thyatira—Tolerance--Intolerance (Part 3)
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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.

Matt. 16:18 Jesus said, “I will build my church and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it. Everyone has weaknesses and so do churches. In Revelation chapter 2-3 the Lord addresses the weaknesses, vulnerabilities and proclivities of churches and people towards sin. These seven churches typify the communities of believers throughout history. The conditions of these churches in Asia are a reflection of church then and now.

Read Revelation 2:18-29 To the angel of the church in Thyatira write: These are the words of the Son of God, whose eyes are like blazing fire and whose feet are like burnished bronze. ¹⁹ I know your deeds, your love and faith, your service and perseverance, and that you are now doing more than you did at first. ²⁰ **Nevertheless**, I have this against you: you **tolerate** that woman Jezebel, who calls herself a prophet. By her **teaching** she misleads my servants into sexual immorality and the eating of food sacrificed to idols. ²¹ I have given her **time to repent** of her immorality, but she is unwilling. ²² So I will cast her on a bed of **suffering**, and I will make **those who commit adultery with her** suffer intensely, unless they repent of her ways. ²³ I will strike her children **dead**. Then all the churches will know that I am he who searches hearts and minds, and I will **repay** each of you according to your deeds. ²⁴ Now I say **to the rest of you in Thyatira**, to you who do not hold to her teaching and have not learned Satan’s so-called deep secrets, “I will not impose any other burden on you, ²⁵ except **to hold on to what you have** until I come.” ²⁶ To the one who is victorious and does my will to the end, I will give authority over the nations – ²⁷ that one “will rule them with an iron scepter [rod of iron] and will dash them to pieces like pottery”^[b] – just as I have received authority from my Father. ²⁸ I will also give that one the morning star.

William Booth, a British Methodist Preacher was born April 10, 1829 and died August 20, 1912; he was 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.)

As believers we should be both tolerant and intolerant (Mom's Soap Opera—changing dial)

- I. **Followers of the Lord are to be tolerant of the Lost** (*1 Cor. 5:12* *It isn't my responsibility to judge outsiders*)
 - A. **Timothy Keller: Tolerance isn't about not having beliefs. It's about how your beliefs lead you to treat people who disagree with you.**
 - 1. **The Lost** (*Lu. 19:10* *For the Son of Man has come to seek and to save that which was lost*)
 - a. *Pastor Dan:* The situation in the world today is not wrong people being wrong; it's right for wrong people to be wrong because it is the nature of wrong people to do wrong and not right. The real problem is that right people are living wrong; and it's wrong for a right person to be wrong. When the wrong people see that the right people are having as much fun being right as the wrong people are in being wrong. Then the wrong people will want to become like the right people.
 - b. *1 Tim. 2:1-4* Therefore I exhort first of all that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and giving of thanks be made for all men, ² for kings and all who are in authority, that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and reverence. ³ For this is good and acceptable in the sight of God our Savior, ⁴ who desires all men to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth.
 - c. *1 Pet. 3:9 (NLT)* The Lord isn't really being slow about his promise, as some people think. No, he is being patient for your sake. He does not want anyone to be destroyed, but wants everyone to repent.
 - d. *John 8:2, 10-11* The Pharisees brought him a woman caught in adultery Didn't even one of them condemn you? No, Lord. Jesus said, "Neither do I. Go and sin no more.
 - e. *1 Cor. 6:11* 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. 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. Such were some of you—fornicators, idolaters, adulterers, homosexuals, sodomites, thieves, covetous, drunkards, revilers, extortioners
 - f. *Luke 4:18* The Spirit of the LORD is upon Me, because He has anointed Me to preach the gospel to the poor; He has sent Me to heal the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives and recovery of sight to the blind, to set at liberty those who are oppressed; to proclaim the acceptable year of the LORD.
 - g. *Pastor Dan:* Our focus in judgment should always first be directed inward. If we would judge and correct ourselves, we would not be judged (Apostle Paul).
 - h. *Pastor Dan:* No one has a right to take another person apart until they are completely together themselves.

II. Followers of the Lord must be Intolerant of ... (*Rev. 2:20-23* Nevertheless, I have this against you: you **tolerate** that woman Jezebel, who calls herself a prophet. By her teaching she misleads my servants into sexual immorality and the eating of food sacrificed to idols. ²¹ I have given her **time to repent** of her immorality, but she is unwilling. ²² So I will cast her on a bed of **suffering**, and I will make **those who commit adultery with her** suffer intensely, unless they repent of her ways. ²³ I will strike her children **dead**. Then all the churches will know that I am he who searches hearts and minds, and I will **repay** each of you according to your deeds)

A. G. K. Chesterson: Tolerance is the virtue of those who lack conviction.

1. Doctrines of Demons (*Gal. 1:6-9* I am astonished that you are so quickly deserting the one who called you to live in the grace of Christ and are turning to a different gospel—which is really no gospel at all. Evidently some people are throwing you into confusion and are trying to pervert the gospel of Christ. ⁸ But even if we or an angel from heaven should preach a gospel other than the one we preached to you, let them be under God's curse! ⁹ As we have already said, so now I say again: If anybody is preaching to you a gospel other than what you accepted, let them be [accursed] under God's curse.)

- a. **1 Tim. 4:1-3** (CDT Version) The Holy Spirit clearly says that in the later times some shall depart from the faith because they will allow themselves to be seduced by demon spirits and doctrines of devils. Such teachings come through hypocritical liars, whose consciences have been seared as with a hot iron.
- b. *Pastor Dan*: According to the Apostle Paul in **1 Tim. 4:1-3** there are three steps that lead to a person being desensitized to the Gospel of Christ: 1) Seduction by Demons 2) Indoctrination by lies and false teaching 3) Desensitization
- c. *Definition of Desensitize: (W.E. Vines—kausteriazio)* 1) to burn in with a branding iron 2) to mark by branding—the reference is to apostates whose consciences are branded with the effects of their sin. **On Line Dictionary**: 1) to make emotionally insensitive or callous; *specifically*: to extinguish an emotional response (as of fear, anxiety, or guilt) to stimuli that formerly induced it.
- d. *Pastor Dan*: When a person hardens his or her our heart by entertaining doctrines of demons, and allows him or herself to be seduced and desensitized to the things of God; **Heb. 6:4-6** will be fulfilled (It is impossible for those who have once been enlightened, who have tasted the heavenly gift, who have shared in the Holy Spirit, ⁵ who have tasted the goodness of the word of God and the powers of the coming age ⁶ and who have fallen^[e] away, to be brought back to repentance. To their loss they are crucifying the Son of God all over again and subjecting him to public disgrace).
- e. **2 Tim. 2:15** (NKJV) Study and be diligent to present yourself approved to God, a worker who does not need to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth. *Syrus*: It is of no profit to have learned well if you neglect to do well.
- f. *Thomas Mann*: Tolerance becomes a crime when applied to evil.
- g. *Dorothy L. Sayers*: In the world it is called Tolerance, but in hell it is called despair; the sin that believes in nothing, cares for nothing, seeks to know nothing, interferes with nothing, enjoys nothing, hates nothing, finds purpose in nothing, lives for nothing, and remains alive because there is nothing for which it will die.

- h. **2 John 10-11** If anyone comes to you and does not bring this teaching, do not receive him or her into your house or give him any greeting, for whoever greets him takes part in his wicked works
 - i. **Ro. 16:17** I appeal to you, brothers, to watch out for those who cause divisions and create obstacles contrary to the doctrine that you have been taught; avoid them
 - j. **John 14:6** Jesus said to Thomas, “I am the way, the truth and life; no one comes to the Father except through Me.
- 2. Peddlers of Perverted Doctrines** (*2 Tim. 4:2-4 Preach the word; be prepared in season and out of season; correct, rebuke and encourage—with great patience and careful instruction. ³ For the time will come when people will not put up with sound doctrine. Instead, to suit their own desires, they will gather around them a great number of teachers to say what their itching ears want to hear.*)
- a. **John Maxwell:** Everything rises and falls on leadership.
 - b. **Matt. 15:14** If the blind lead the blind, both shall fall into the ditch.
 - c. **Author Unknown:** Association brings on assimilation. You will assimilate the behavior with which you associate.
- 3. Idolatry** (*1 Cor. 10:14-21 Therefore, my dear friends, flee from idolatry ... the sacrifices of pagans are offered to demons, not to God, and I do not want you to be participants with demons. ²¹ You cannot drink the cup of the Lord and the cup of demons too; you cannot have a part in both the Lord’s table and the table of demons.*)
- a. **Martin Luther:** Whatever a man loves, that is his god. For he carries it in his heart; he goes about with it night and day; he sleeps and wakes with it, be it what it may—wealth or self, pleasure or pride.
 - b. **D. L. Moody:** You don’t have to go to heathen lands today to find false gods. America is full of them. Whatever you love more than God is your idol.
 - c. **Pastor Dan:** Idolatry is our attempt to use God for our purposes, rather than allow God to use us for His purposes. It is anything we substitute for relationship with God.
 - d. **Matt. 6:19-24** (Message Bible) Don’t hoard treasure down here where it gets eaten by moths and corroded by rust or—worse!—stolen by burglars. Stockpile treasure in heaven, where it’s safe from moth and rust and burglars. It’s obvious, isn’t it? The place where your treasure is, is the place you will most want to be, and end up being. Your eyes are windows into your body. If you open your eyes wide in wonder and belief, your body fills up with light. If you live squinty-eyed in greed and distrust, your body is a dank cellar. If you pull the blinds on your windows, what a dark life you will have. You can’t worship two gods at once. Loving one god, you’ll end up hating the other. Adoration of one feeds contempt for the other. You can’t worship God and Money both.
- 4. Sin in the church** (*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 ... For God did not call us to uncleanness, but in holiness. ⁸ Therefore he who rejects this instruction does not reject man, but God, who has also given us His Holy Spirit)*)

- a. **1 Cor. 5:1-11** I can hardly believe the report about the sexual immorality going on among you Don't you realize that this sin is like a little yeast that spreads through the whole batch of dough? ⁷ Get rid of the old "yeast" by removing this wicked person from among you. Then you will be like a fresh batch of dough made without yeast, which is what you really are. Christ, our Passover Lamb, has been sacrificed for us.^[g] ⁸ So let us celebrate the festival, not with the old bread of wickedness and evil, but with the new bread of sincerity and truth. ⁹ When I wrote to you before, I told you not to associate with people who indulge in sexual sin. ¹⁰ But I wasn't talking about unbelievers who indulge in sexual sin, or are greedy, or cheat people, or worship idols. You would have to leave this world to avoid people like that. ¹¹ I meant that you are not to associate with anyone who claims to be a believer yet indulges in sexual sin, or is greedy, or worships idols, or is abusive, or is a drunkard, or cheats people. Don't even eat with such people. It isn't my responsibility to judge outsiders, but it certainly is your responsibility to judge those inside the church who are sinning. ¹³ God will judge those on the outside.
- b. **1 Cor. 1:10** Now I plead with you, brethren, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that you all speak the same thing, and *that* there be no divisions among you, but *that* you be perfectly joined together in the same mind and in the same judgment

Closing and Invitation: Paul instructs the Corinthians to judge, which seems contradictory to Christ's teaching. When order in the church is being threatened by wrongdoing, we are obligated to act decisively in accordance with the Word of God. We must judge in order to preserve purity. There is a time to judge. If open arrogant sin is left alone, it spreads like wildfire. Do you not know that a little leaven leavens the whole lump? Proper discipline by a compassionate leader is designed to bring a wayward believer to repentance. Paul instructed the Corinthians to remove from the church those who are openly involved in immorality. He also commanded them not to fellowship with those who claim right standing with God, but arrogantly practice wrongdoing. Paul dealt swiftly and sternly with the problem. He wanted to protect the church. He also taught believers to forgive a repentant individual and commanded the Corinthians, "The punishment inflicted by the majority is sufficient ... reaffirm your love to him."

Commentary: Matthew Henry and Pastor Dan: No amount of loving and sacrifice or good works can compensate for tolerance of evil. If the followers of Christ knowingly, habitually, deliberately **commit or allow evil practices** to be done in the church; The Lord rebuke, correct and punish them. The Lord, who knew both the pure and impure motives of those in Thyatira—recognized their progress (**Rev. 2:19**), "I know your deeds, your love and faith; your service and perseverance, and that you are now doing more than you did at first." We would do well to follow the example of those in Thyatira—making the last works our best works. But all was not good—many in Thyatira were being seduced by a so called woman prophet by the name of Jezebel. She was allowed to teach the doctrines of devils to the people. Jezebel had been warned but she was unwilling to repent, and those permitting her to teach, were unwilling to stop her. Jezebel was immoral, a woman who had seduced her followers into practicing sexual perversion. She was an idolater who was attempting to merge the message of Christ, sexual immorality and the worship of idols into a new religion. This practice was nothing new. After Hoshea, the last king of Israel, was imprisoned and taken to Assyria by King Shalmaneser, along with the Northern Jews, and relocated in Assyria. The few remaining Jews and the people that Shalmaneser relocated in Northern Israel attempted to worship the Lord and their pagan gods [Hezekiah was king at this time in Southern

Israel]. **2 Kings 17:32-33** says, “They worshiped the LORD, but they also appointed all sorts of their own people to officiate for them as priests in the shrines at the high places. They worshiped the LORD, but they also served their own gods in accordance with the customs of the nations from which they had been brought.” God’s judgment was looming on the horizon of Thyatira’s evil practices—immense suffering, pain and death awaited Jezebel and her adherents. To those who remained faithful to Jesus, He was tender and kind, outlining their reward for faithfulness (**Rev. 2:26-27**): the one who is victorious and does my will to the end, I will give authority over the nations— that one will rule them with an iron scepter [rod of iron] and will dash them to pieces like pottery.”