



Pergamum

Series: The Seven Letters

Scripture: Revelation 2:12-17

Jesus never called us to _____ Christianity. He called us to _____ Christianity.

"To the angel of the church in Pergamum write: These are the words of him who has the sharp, double-edged sword." (v12)

- Christ's word is _____ than Caesar's sword.

Jesus says, "I know _____ you live." (v13)

- Compromise rarely _____ itself. It usually arrives disguised as _____.

Two churches, two ditches:

- Ephesus kept its _____ but lost its _____.
- Pergamum kept its _____ but let go of _____.

"You have people there who hold to the teaching of Balaam... who taught Balak to entice the Israelites to sin so that they ate food sacrificed to idols and committed sexual immorality." (v14)

- Balaam's strategy: don't attack Israel from the _____. Get them to compromise from the _____.
- Destructive compromise is almost never called _____. It's usually called _____.

"Repent therefore!" (v16)

- Repentance is not primarily about _____. It is about _____.

"To the one who is victorious, I will give some of the hidden manna. I will also give that person a white stone with a new name written on it, known only to the one who receives it." (v17)

- Jesus offers _____ manna and a _____ stone.
- On the stone is written a _____ — known only to _____.

1 John 1:9 — the pattern for dealing with compromise:

- _____
- _____
- _____

The church in Pergamum didn't _____ their faith - they _____ it. They didn't _____ compromise - they _____ it.

Start Talking:

- What's a small compromise you made recently that seemed harmless at the time — a white lie, a joke you laughed at, a corner you cut?
- Have you ever gone along with something just to avoid being "that person" in the room? What happened?

- What stood out to you most from this week's message?

Start Thinking:

- Read Revelation 2:12-17.
- Why do you think Jesus opens by describing himself as the one with the "sharp, double-edged sword," especially in a city that was the seat of Roman power?
- Jesus says, "I know where you live — where Satan has his throne." How does it change things to know Jesus isn't surprised by your hardest environment?
- The church in Pergamum stood firm under persecution but tolerated compromise from within. Which is harder for you to resist — external pressure or an "acceptable" compromise?
- Why do you think Jesus pairs a warning (v16) with a promise (v17) rather than choosing one or the other?

Start Sharing:

- Balaam's teaching wasn't presented as rebellion — it was presented as reasonable, practical wisdom. Where do you see compromise dressed up as "wisdom" or "common sense" in our culture today?
- The message contrasted Ephesus (truth without love) and Pergamum (love without truth). Which ditch do you tend to lean toward personally?
- What's your version of Pergamum right now — a place, relationship, or season where following Jesus fully would cost you something?
- The white stone carries a "new name known only to the one who receives it." How does being fully known by God compare to the kind of belonging the world offers?

Start Praying:

- For eyes to recognize compromise before it hardens into habit.
- For courage to hold both truth and love, without losing either.
- For our church to be quick to name and confess sin rather than let it sit.
- For those in our body facing real pressure to compromise their faith at work, school, or home.

Start Doing:

- Read 1 John 1:9. Is there something you've been minimizing instead of confessing? Bring it into the light this week.
- Name one "reasonable" compromise you've made peace with. What would it look like to turn from it?
- Pastor's question: "What's our Pergamum?" Discuss this as a group — where has our church, collectively, gotten comfortable with something we used to call by its right name?
- How can your small group help each other stay accountable when compromise starts to look like wisdom?

Challenge for the Week:

Ask yourself this question every morning: "Am I going along with something today because it's right, or because it's easier?" Each day read Revelation 2:12-17 and pray, "Jesus, you know exactly where I live.

Give me the courage to stand my ground."