

THE COMPROMISED CHURCH

Pergamum remained loyal to Christ's name but tolerated false teaching and moral compromise.



This letter to Pergamum calls the church to sober self-examination about cultural compromise. Jesus challenges us to consider how Christians can slowly adopt the values and practices of the surrounding culture (the “kingdom of the evil one”) while still claiming Jesus, and cease to look distinctively different. Pastor Jenna urges us to choose holiness over cultural conformity so that we can experience the promises Jesus offers in this letter - hidden manna (nourishment of the soul). and a new, intimate name from Christ.

SEPTEMBER 21, 2025

Pastor Jenna Luoto



LEADER GUIDE

Big Idea

The church in Pergamum was faithful in name yet compromised with culture, and Jesus called them to repent. We too face the danger of blending in with the world instead of living distinctively different for Christ. Jesus' promise is sure—those who overcome will share intimacy, nourishment, and a new identity in Him. Those who do not will be cut off.

Key Themes

1. **Faithfulness under pressure** – Jesus commends the church for holding onto His name even in a hostile environment.
2. **The danger of compromise** – Small, subtle shifts toward cultural norms can lead to spiritual drift.
3. **The reality of spiritual deception** – Satan often works through slow erosion rather than obvious attacks.
4. **Holiness versus cultural conformity** – God's people are called to live distinctly different from the world.
5. **The call to repentance** – Jesus urges the church to turn back and realign with truth.
6. **The promise of reward** – Those who overcome receive intimacy, provision, and a new identity in Christ.

Scripture Reading

- Revelation 2:12-17 (read aloud as a group).

SEPTEMBER 21, 2025

Pastor Jenna Luoto



LEADER GUIDE, CONT.

Leader Tips:

- Model humility. Avoid sounding judgmental—this topic triggers defensiveness. Frame everything as “we” not “you.”
- Keep the conversation gospel-centered: call to holiness flows from love and grace, not shame.
- If someone becomes defensive, redirect to curiosity: “Help me understand what led you to that conclusion.”
- Keep conversation productive and curious - away from critical spirits, defensiveness, or collective negativity.
- Encourage action: the point is not only conviction but repentance and change. Help people pick one measurable, time-bound step.