



# DEAR PERGAMUM,

REVELATION 2:12-17

## DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

### **2 Kingdoms**

1. Revelation shows us two kingdoms in conflict: God's kingdom and the kingdom of the evil one. In what everyday situations do you feel the pull to live by the values of the wrong kingdom?

### **Compromise**

2. Jesus commended the church in Pergamum for holding fast to His name but rebuked them for compromise. Why do you think compromise is often harder to notice than outright rejection of faith?

3. The sermon named "slow deception" as Satan's most dangerous strategy. Where have you seen this slow fade in your own life, in the Church, or in our culture? (See list for consideration)

### **Be Different**

4. Jesus calls us to live distinctly different from the world. What's one area of your life where you feel your difference is noticeable? What's one area where you've blended in too much?

5. Who in your life needs to see something distinctively different in you?



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## DISCUSSION QUESTIONS, CONT.

### Repentance

6. Repentance is not just confession but turning back to holiness. What is one specific step you sense God calling you to take this week to resist compromise and walk in obedience?

7. Jesus warns of a sifting and calls to repentance. What does repentance look like practically for you this week? Name one specific, measurable change you will do (or stop doing).

### Promises

8. Revelation 2 promises hidden manna and a white stone with a new name to those who overcome. How does this picture of intimacy and reward motivate you to pursue holiness?

### Live it Out

9. What obstacles (fear, shame, loss of relationships, economic risk) make it hard to choose holiness? How will you rely on the Spirit through these obstacles?

10. How can this small group support one another in pursuing holiness (accountability rhythms, prayer, practical help)? Be specific.

***Are there any specific things that our American culture normalizes today that the church should not participate in based on the life calling laid out in the scriptures?***

**1. Consumerism & Materialism** - Defining success and identity by possessions, income, comfort, and upward mobility. **Scripture's Call:** "You cannot serve both God and money" (Matthew 6:24). Followers of Jesus are called to contentment, generosity, and simplicity (1 Timothy 6:6–10; Hebrews 13:5).

**2. Sexual Ethics of the Culture** - Normalizing Pornography, hookup culture, cohabitation outside marriage, wearing revealing clothing, redefining marriage and gender identity apart from God's design. **Scripture's Call:** God calls His people to holiness in body and mind (1 Corinthians 6:18–20; 1 Thessalonians 4:3–5). Sexual intimacy is a covenant gift designed for marriage.

**3. Radical Individualism** - "Do what makes you happy," "You do you," and prioritizing self over community. **Scripture's Call:** We are called into belonging—to Christ and to His body, the Church (Romans 12:4–5; Philippians 2:3–4). The gospel says freedom is found in surrender to Christ, not self.

**4. Political Tribalism & Nationalism** - Equating faithfulness to Jesus with loyalty to a political party or nation; demonizing the "other side." **Scripture's Call:** Our citizenship is in heaven (Philippians 3:20). We honor leaders, but we worship only Christ (Acts 5:29). Unity in Christ is what we are called to; not partisan identity politics. (Galatians 3:28).

**5. Entertainment as Escapism** - Binge-watching, social media addiction, video games, endless scrolling, always chasing the next dopamine hit. **Scripture's Call:** "Be careful how you live... making the most of every opportunity" (Ephesians 5:15–16). Rest and joy are good, but disciples are called to intentionality and alertness. Be alert and of sober mind. Your enemy the devil prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour." (1 Peter 5:8)

**6. Busyness & Overwork** - Defining worth by productivity, hustling without margin, neglecting Sabbath rest. **Scripture's Call:** Take a sabbath - it is a gift (Exodus 20:8–11; Mark 2:27). Jesus says, "Come to Me... and I will give you rest" (Matthew 11:28–30).

**7. Dehumanization in Speech & Digital Spaces** - Online outrage, sarcasm, cancel culture, treating opponents as enemies rather than image-bearers of God. **Scripture's Call:** "Let no unwholesome talk come out of your mouths, but only what is helpful for building others up" (Ephesians 4:29). Even enemies are to be loved (Matthew 5:44).

**8. Complacency & Nominal Christianity** - Treating church as a "check box" or faith as a private hobby rather than a whole-life calling. **Scripture's Call:** Jesus says, "If anyone would come after Me, let him deny himself and take up his cross daily and follow Me" (Luke 9:23). True discipleship costs us everything.