

## ***CHRIST'S CALL TO RESIST COMPROMISE***

*(Revelation 2:12-17)*

Compromise is the sin of abandoning the absolute standard, truths and principles of God and His Word in exchange for cultural accommodation and sinful gratification. **In a culture which unashamedly condones sin and aggressively pressures us to cave in, our Lord Jesus calls us to resist compromise and uphold unflinching loyalty to God and His Word.** As we reflect on the Lord's letter to the church of Pergamum, we will learn three biblical convictions that we should hold on to in order to overcome the sin of compromise.

**1. *Revere Jesus alone as the* \_\_\_\_\_.**

Imagine receiving a letter from the Lord Jesus describing your city as a Satanic hotspot. Pergamum was such a place. It was described by Jesus as the throne of Satan because pagan idolatry, emperor worship and sexual promiscuity dominated the city's social, cultural and religious life (Revelation 2:12-13). This is why our Lord Jesus began His letter by reminding the Christians in Pergamum that He alone is the Sovereign Ruler and Judge who bears the sword of highest authority (Revelations 2:12; Matthew 28:18; John 5:22; Acts 17:30-31). As the church of Christ, we worship and pay allegiance to only one Master, one King, one Judge and one Sovereign, the Lord Jesus.

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**2. *Renounce every* \_\_\_\_\_ *that desecrates the church.***

Our Lord Jesus rebukes the church of Pergamum because they have in their midst those who tolerate false teaching and immoral practice. This doctrinal error is associated with two groups of people: the Balaamites and the Nicolaitans (Revelations 2:14-15). The heresy that plagued the Pergamum church was a perversion of the biblical doctrine of sin and grace. In the language of Jude 1:4, these false teachers entice believers to pervert the grace of God into a license for immorality. Our Lord reproved the whole church because they failed to take action against these false teachers. Jesus commands them to repent of their sinful compromise (Revelation 2:16). Otherwise, Christ who is the Divine Warrior, would fight against the heretics and compromisers in order to defend the purity and holiness of His church.

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**3. *Resolve to delight in* \_\_\_\_\_ *more than the pleasures of sin.***

In order to resist and overcome the sin of compromise, we must teach and train our hearts to constantly delight in the pleasures and rewards of God more than the fleeting pleasures of sin (Proverbs 4:23). The rewards promised by Christ to those who by God's grace conquer the sin of compromise are the gifts of eternal life, complete satisfaction in God and a new and glorified identity which will mark us as the beloved people of God who belong to Him forever (Revelation 2:17; John 6:35,40). Nothing is more essential to our effectiveness as believers and servants of Christ's church than our personal holiness which does not compromise the honor of Christ and the value of His Word.

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