



"Whoever has ears, let him hear what the Spirit says to the church." REVELATION 2:7

RECALIBRATE!

Commended
OnlySmyrna (Rev. 2:8ff)
Philadelphia (Rev. 3:7ff)Condemned
OnlyLaodicia (Rev. 3:14ff)Commended
& CriticizedEphesus (Rev. 2:1ff)
Pergamum (Rev. 2:12ff)
Thyatira (Rev. 2:18ff)
Sardis (Rev. 3:1ff)

SEXUAL IMMORALITY

SEXUAL INTIMACY

-in the pulpit and in the pew-is an everpresent danger in the church! is the Creator's most powerful relational gift—when experienced by his design: by husband and wife within the loving confines of their marriage.

It should be no surprise that such a powerful gift is so powerfully destructive when corrupted!

to **EPHESUS**

"If you don't repent, I will come and remove your lampstand." REVELATION 2:5

to **PERGAMUM**

"Repent...or I will fight against those among you with the sword of my mouth." REVELATION 2:16

to THYATIRA

"Unless they repent, I will cast her and all who commit adultery with her on a bed of intense suffering." REVELATION 2:22

to **SARDIS**

Wake up or I will come like a thief at an hour you won't know." REVELATION 3:3



RECALIBRATE

Ephesus

a church that must balance doctrinal correctness with devotion to Christ

Commends

"I know your deeds, your toil and perseverance, that you cannot endure evil men, and you put to the test those who call themselves apostles, but are not. You found them to be false. You have persevered for my name, and have not grown weary...you hate the deeds of the Nicolaitans, which I also hate."

 $\mathbf{REVELATION} \quad 2:2-3 \quad \& \quad 6$

Condemns

"I have this against you: you have left your first love." REVELATION 2:4

We face the danger of being doctrinally true while becoming devotionally tepid.

RECALIBRATE

Pergamum

a church that must balance courage to suffer with courage to confront sin

Commends

I know you dwell where Satan's throne is and you hold fast my name. You didn't deny my faith, even when Antipas, my faithful witness, was killed among you.

REVELATION 2:13

Condemns

"But I have a few things against you, because you have some who hold the teaching of Balaam, who kept teaching Balak to put a stumbling block before Israelites, to eat things sacrificed to idols and commit acts of immorality. You also have some who in the same way hold the teaching of the Nicolaitans." REVELATION 2:14-15 To believe in a sovereign Creator yet simultaneously believe he doesn't—or shouldn't—inform my attitude and behavior sexually, amounts to sexual atheism.

Jesus <u>is</u> Lord of all, or He <u>is not</u> Lord at all!



Commends

"I know your deeds—your love, faith, service and perseverance—that your deeds of late are greater than at first." REVELATION 2:19

Condemns

"I have this against you: You tolerate the woman Jezebel, who calls herself a prophetess. She leads my servants astray and teaches them to commit acts of immorality and eat things sacrificed to idols. I gave her time to repent; and she does not want to repent of her immorality. REVELATION 2:20-23

Condemns

"Behold, I will cast her upon a bed of sickness, and those who commit adultery with her into great tribulation, unless they repent of her deeds. And I will kill her children with pestilence; and all the churches will know that I am he who searches the minds and hearts."

REVELATION 2:20-23

Balancing truth with grace can easily drift into blurred morality accepting the sinner and the sin.

Because Jesus perfectly modeled it, He expects His church to balance grace with vigilance as well.



a church that must balance reputation with reality

Condemns

"I know your deeds, that you have a name that you are alive, but you're dead. Wake up, and strengthen what remains, it is about to die; for I have not found your deeds completed in God's sight." REVELATION 3:1-2

Commends

"Yet you have a few who've not soiled their garments; they'll walk with me in white; for they are worthy."

REVELATION 3:4

THE TAKEAWAY

As it relates to immorality—sexual or otherwise:

acknowledge the wrongness of sin before God.

BE RESPONSIBLE you are response-able.

REFUSE to keep your sin in the dark.

THE TAKEAWAY

Jesus doesn't write imperfect churches off. That day may come, but it is not yet. He gives them time to repent.

"Return to the Lord, for he is gracious and compassionate, slow to anger and abounding in love, and he relents from sending calamity." JOEL 2:13

"Who is a God like you, who ... delights to show mercy." MICAH 7:18

