
**Study Questions for the June 5, 2022 Sermon:
“Church Struggles: When Sin Sets In”
Revelation 2:12-29**

1. Psalm 149:3 validates dancing as a format for praising the Lord. What boundaries should be set in place to ensure that dancing remains worshipful?
2. Psalm 149:6-9 and Revelation 2:26-28, may be difficult for Christians to understand and apply. When should we be acting as God's instruments of vengeance? Now, or only at some later period in the end times?
3. Verse 12 describes Jesus as wielding a two-edge sword. What is the symbolism here? Reviewing Hebrews 4:12 may help.
4. The Apostle John portrays eating food sacrificed to idols as unequivocally sinful. He mentions it several times. The Apostle Paul treats this same activity as a matter of conscience (1 Cor 8:8-12). Is this a contradiction in scripture? If not, how can the teachings in Corinthians and Revelation be reconciled?
5. Pastor Paul said that the doctrine of the Nicolaitans was compromising with the prevailing culture in areas where the culture was inconsistent with Christian ethics. While this is perfectly sound, nearly every commentator has his/her own theory about the doctrine of the Nicolaitans. WHY would scripture make a very big issue of a sin that is not clearly defined?
6. Memory tests: What did Pastor Paul say was the:
 - a. First thing to do when you are engaging in a sinful activity?
 - b. Meaning of the white stone with our name on it?

7. Jesus wants us for himself; no one held higher and no one even on the same level. If a friend demanded this of us, we would consider her unreasonable. Why is it OK for Jesus to make this demand of us?
8. Five of the seven Revelation churches, including Pergamos, are commanded to repent. These are Christians; they already repented when they came to Christ. Why would they be asked to re-repent?
9. Jesus is described as having three qualities. Explain the symbolism of each.
 - a. Son of God.
 - b. Feet of brass.
 - c. Eyes like a flame of fire.
10. Thyatira was a model church, demonstrating love, service, faith, and patience. Yet they apparently tolerated an influential and charismatic woman who supported immorality and idol worship. She probably had some loyal supporters within the congregation.
 - a. If you have ever had to deal with this situation, BRIEFLY (3 sentences) share your experience.
 - b. What is the first step you should take if a member is an unscriptural influence on others?
11. Pastor Paul talked about the congregation taking the “hard middle road” of making it clear to wayward members that they are still loved, but their sin is not tolerated or (worst yet) affirmed. How should the congregation take the hard middle road if the following people visit Northwest Baptist?
 - a. An alcohol or drug addict.
 - b. An unmarried man and woman living together.
 - c. A transsexual.
 - d. A homosexual couple.

12. Application questions: Pastor Paul asked us to consider the following. If you did, share your insights.

- a. How do we influence our brothers and sisters not to sin?
- b. How do we deal with them when they are sinning?
- c. What forms of sexual immorality do we tolerate?
- d. Where to we feel the most pressure to conform to the prevailing culture?