

### **Questions for further study and application in Revelation 2:12-17**

1. Read 2:13. Where does Jesus say this church dwelled? What did they experience? Jesus did not tell them to get out of such an evil city. What does this reveal about where He intentionally places and wants His people to be? Read Phil. 2:15-16. Does it make any difference that Christians know this?
2. For what does Jesus commend in the church at Pergamum in 2:13? How could you be more like them in this area?
3. Read Revelation 2:14-15. What does Jesus have against this church?
4. Read Numbers 25. What did Israel's sin start out as in 25:1 and what did it lead to in 25:2-3? What did Balaam counsel the Moabites (Midianites were also involved) to do to Israel in Number 31:15-16? How is this done by Satan today?
5. Read Rev. 2:14-15. Just like Balaam did to Israel, there were men in the church at Pergamum, called 'Nicolatians' (2:15), who were teaching it was OK with God to be immoral and to join in the practices of the Moabites. They allured the Christians into idolatry through immorality. The believers at Pergamum, though strong in their faith, began to "stumble" and participate in the immoral practices of the Romans. Are Christians tempted today in this way?
6. Are Christians in today's culture being led into idolatry through immorality? Read Ephesians 5:7-14. What do we learn about how we should view and respond to our tempting, sinful culture?
7. What is Jesus implying in 2:14-15 that the church at Pergamum should have done, in response to the presence of these sinning men in their congregation?
8. Read Matthew 18:15-17. How does Jesus tell us to deal with those in sin?
9. What are wrong ways that churches sometimes deal with the sin of their members?
10. What are wrong ways that Christians sometimes deal with the sin they see in other members? How should we deal with other's sin? Read Galatian 6:1
11. Does it matter what churches and Christians do in response to the sin of its members?
12. Read 1 Cor. 5. What do we learn about how a church should respond to its members who sin. Does it matter if a church does this? Why do churches often not do this?
13. Read Rev. 2:16. What does Jesus call them to do and why? What does this tell us about the importance of church discipline?

14. Read Rev. 2:17 Jesus makes 2 promises: Secret Manna and a Secret Name. Manna was the supernatural means of the Lord sustaining His people for 40 years in the desert. What point do you think He is making to His people when He says He will be their "hidden Manna." Share one time you experienced Jesus to be your 'hidden Manna'.
15. Jesus promises in 2:17 to give each of us a new name that only He and we know. Similar to a nickname. In a city and culture that hated them and had killed one of their members, what do you think the Lord is trying to say to those at Pergamum?
16. Pray together about personal holiness and the need to respond to the evil we see around us in a godly manner.
  - a. Am I fellowshiping and participating in the 'deeds of darkness' in this world? What would the lord want me to stop looking at? Stop participating in?
  - b. Is there a Christian in my life that I know is in unrepentant sin? How would the Lord want me to respond to this knowledge?