

To Compromising People

To the angel of the church in Pergamum write: These are the words of him who has the sharp, double-edged sword. ¹³ I know where you live—where Satan has his throne. Yet you remain true to my name. You did not renounce your faith in me, even in the days of Antipas, my faithful witness, who was put to death in your city—where Satan lives. ¹⁴ Nevertheless, I have a few things against you: You have people there who hold to the teaching of Balaam, who taught Balak to entice the Israelites to sin by eating food sacrificed to idols and by committing sexual immorality. ¹⁵ Likewise you also have those who hold to the teaching of the Nicolaitans. ¹⁶ Repent therefore! Otherwise, I will soon come to you and will fight against them with the sword of my mouth. ¹⁷ He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches. To him who overcomes, I will give some of the hidden manna. I will also give him a white stone with a new name written on it, known only to him who receives it. (Rev 2:12-17, NIV)

Don't copy the behavior and customs of this world, but let God transform you (Romans 12:2, NLT)

4 truths that keep me from being carried away by my culture:

1. My Faith Will Be Tested

*I know where you live—where Satan has his throne. Yet you **remain true** to my name. You did **not renounce your faith** in me, even in the days of Antipas, my faithful witness, who was put to death in your city—where Satan lives. (Rev. 2:13)*

2. My Lifestyle Does Matter

*¹⁴ Nevertheless, I have a few things against you: You have people there who hold to the teaching of Balaam, who taught Balak to entice the Israelites to sin by **eating food sacrificed to idols and by committing sexual immorality**. ¹⁵ Likewise you also have those who hold to the teaching of the Nicolaitans. (Rev. 2:14-15)*

Blessed is the man who does not condemn himself by what he approves. (Romans 14:22, NIV)

3. My Lord Must Be Jesus Christ

*Repent therefore! Otherwise, I will soon come to you and will **fight against them** with the sword of my mouth. (Rev. 2:16)*

*Those whom I love, I **reprove and discipline** (Rev 3:19)*

STAGES OF GOD'S DISCIPLINE

1. Conviction Internally
2. Correction Verbally
3. Chastisement Externally
4. Condemnation Eternally

4. My Reward Is Beyond Imagination

*He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches. To him who overcomes, I will give some of the **hidden manna**. I will also give him a **white stone** with a new name written on it, known only to him who receives it (Rev. 2:17)*