

# Tolerance vs. Love

## An Overview

### Revelation 2:18-29

notice that the message that Christ sent to the church in Thyatira has a similar message to the message that He sent to the pastor and church in Pergamum. That is to say; with the church in Pergamum, the Lord brings forth the Old Testament message about the people of Balaam and Balak to prove a point about the problems in Pergamum. And with the church in Thyatira, the Lord brings up another Old Testament message about a person named Jezebel.

Jezebel was the wife of an Old Testament King Ahab. And the reason why Jezebel is not mentioned with favor in the Bible is that she was a pagan who led the Israelites to the worship of false gods. Yes, she brought false worship of false gods and the seduction of sexual immorality into the church of the Nation of Israel. Contrary to what we would expect, King Ahab did not stand against the paganism and sexual mischievousness, but rather, he supported it. As a result, Israel adopted these practices as their own Israelite practices.

Considering all of this, if we fast forward approximately 900 years, from the Old Testament to the church of Revelation, we hear mention of the church of Thyatira. While it is true that Jezebel had been a pagan for centuries, it is also not true that her ways had stopped working among God's people. In other words, during the time of the church of Thyatira, her name and significance lived on. Jesus used Jezebel's name to say that there was a false teaching in the midst of the church of Thyatira that was seducing people to practice sexual immorality and to embrace pagan practices.

As we can see that Jezebel is a symbol of false teaching and people that want to mingle pagan practices with the Christian faith together, much like what happened last Wednesday with the church of Pergamum.

Just like the church of Pergamum, the pastor and the congregation of Thyatira went the way of



First, false doctrine and pagan practices, and worshipping false gods begin by asking for tolerance. (I will call all these things 'errors' for the sake of simplicity) So, the friends and supporters of error seek to have a majority of the people, who are not upholding error, this:

*"You need not be afraid of this error; we are few and weak; only let us alone; we shall not touch the faith of the others. We know that the church has her standards of doctrine; of course we shall never interfere with them; we only ask for ourselves to be spared interference with our opinions."*

As a result, the error is tolerated. It is given space and room to breathe. Time goes by, though, and the error is not content with merely being tolerated but then wants equality. More specifically, instead of being on the opposite side of truth, error wants to be on the same side as truth. Error wants to stand side by side with truth and be respected as good, right, and salutary. So, error demands equality with truth. And anyone who would dare to try and keep error on the opposite side of truth is deemed as closed-minded, unloving, and a truth suppressor. And so error, as we can see, has just traveled from a minority position where it was tolerated to being accepted as equal to truth. But as expected, the error is not content to merely be equal with truth; it must go on to its natural end, which is to assert supremacy. Error does this by attacking and destroying truth.

Do you see how this works? When the error is tolerated, it then wants equality, and once it has equality, the error seeks to snuff out the truth so that it can be on top.[1] All of this is why Jesus comes down to the church of Thyatira for being tolerant. He said, "Do not hold this teaching, do not learn what some call the 'doctrine of Balaam'"

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