

Week 3

Group Discussion Questions - Pergamum

CONNECT

Are you naturally a rule breaker or a rule follower? Share your answer with your group.

CONSIDER

Watch this week's Groups video at mynorthside.com/dearchurch. **What encouraged or challenged you from the sermon and/or daily devotions this week?**

CHRIST

Read Revelation 2:12-17.

The very beginning of this letter to the church at Pergamum starts with Jesus saying He has a sharp, double-edged sword. At this time in history before automatic weapons, there was no greater symbol of power than a sword. Here we see Jesus establishing His authority.

Would you say that you continually recognize Jesus as the ultimate authority in your life or would you admit this is something you have to be reminded of on occasion?

A common management tool used in business today is, when coaching someone, to give a positive thought before a negative one. In this letter to those in Pergamum, Jesus does the same. He mentions that even though the people live "where Satan has his throne," they did not renounce their faith. However, He then tells them about the negative things they have done, such as listening to false teachers and committing sexual immorality. **Should the good we do outweigh the bad? Should one cancel out the other?** Read James 2:10, then answer these questions again. **Are your answers still the same?**

Pergamum's culture was filled with pagan altars, empire worship, and self-indulgent practices. While much has changed in the past two thousand years, some of these same practices are occurring today. **What are some of the challenges of living in our culture today?**

CALLING

Above all, this letter is a call to live a life of holiness, even if the culture around you is contrary to that way of life. Holy living means living a life that is set apart and reserved to give glory to God. **What are some things you can say no to today that will help you live holy? What are some things you can say yes to that will help you live holy?** These Scriptures could help you answer these questions:

- 1 Thessalonians 4:3-8
- 1 Peter 1:14-16
- John 17:17
- Romans 12:1-2

For some, you may want to live a life that is holy and pleasing to God but really don't know how to do that. Here are some practical steps you can take if you're struggling in this area:

- Pray and ask God daily for strength (1 John 4:4).
- Press into the Holy Spirit (Galatians 5:16).
- Die to your sin (Romans 6:11).
- If you are still struggling in an area of your life and need additional help and support, consider finding a support group that meets on Monday nights here at the church. There are groups such as "Conquer - A Battle for Men's Purity" or "Celebrate Recovery" for those struggling with addiction. You can view the entire list of support groups here: mynorthside.com/care.

Daily Devotions

Take the time to read the daily devotions associated with this study. Then, to continue with this spiritual habit of daily devotion with God, text JOINGOD to 81411 or use the Study tab in the Northside App to receive devotions on a daily basis moving forward.

Further Study & Reflection

The very last verse of this letter to the church at Pergamum (v.17) is one that Bible scholars have debated greatly over the years. It says, *"To the one who is victorious I will give him some of the hidden manna, and I will also give him a white stone with a new name written on it, known only to the one who receives it."* Here are a few of the questions this verse generates:

- **We know manna is a type of food that represents God's provision, but why does the one who conquers only get "some" and why is it "hidden"?**
- **What do the stones represent and does the fact that they are white hold any meaning?**
- **Why is there a name written on the stones?**
- **Why does no one know the name except the one who receives it?**

Sometimes a deeper dive into a single verse of Scripture can reveal great truths. Take some time this week as individuals to read some commentaries on this one verse and share your findings with each other when you gather next.

Memorize

"Make every effort to live in peace with everyone and to be holy; without holiness no one will see the Lord."

Hebrews 12:14

FAMILY
CONVERSATION
STARTERS

