

SEVEN

CHURCHES IN REVELATION



- Church in Thyatira
- June 14, 2026
- Shalom Ministries International

When Love Separates from Truth

- The purpose of the church
 - Maintaining holiness and truth;
- A healthy church needs both:
 - Truth without love (Ephesus), Thyatira represents love without truth.
 - Love that is not grounded in truth can become permissiveness.
 - Without truth, love becomes sentimentality.
 - Many churches today struggle with this issue when they redefine love as unconditional affirmation rather than seeking a person's ultimate good according to God's will.
- When the church avoids confronting false teaching
 - They confused love with tolerance, allowing harmful teaching to spread rather than confront it.
 - They confused grace with permission, by tolerating behaviors that contradicted God's commands.
 - They valued peace over truth by allowing it to continue.

The Letter to Thyatira (Revelation 2:18-29)

These are the words of the Son of God, whose eyes are like blazing fire and whose feet are like burnished bronze. I know your deeds, your love and faith, your service and perseverance, and that you are now doing more than you did at first.

Nevertheless, I have this against you: You tolerate that woman Jezebel, who calls herself a prophet. By her teaching she misleads my servants into sexual immorality and the eating of food sacrificed to idols. I have given her time to repent of her immorality, but she is unwilling. So I will cast her on a bed of suffering, and I will make those who commit adultery with her suffer intensely, unless they repent of her ways. I will strike her children dead. Then all the churches will know that I am he who searches hearts and minds, and I will repay each of you according to your deeds.

Now I say to the rest of you in Thyatira, to you who do not hold to her teaching and have not learned Satan's so-called **deep secrets**, 'I will not impose any other burden on you, except to hold on to what you have until I come.' To the one who is victorious and does my will to the end, I will give authority over the nations—that one 'will rule them with an iron scepter and will dash them to pieces like pottery'¹—just as I have received authority from my Father. I will also give that one the morning star. Whoever has ears, let them hear what the Spirit says to the churches.

Background of the Church



- Thyatira (Akhisar, Turkey)
 - 40 miles southeast of Pergamum; the smallest of these seven cities.
 - Not religious center; Small Jewish population
 - An important manufacturing center: dying, garments, pottery and work in bronze were done.
 - Noted numerous guilds; Without belonging to guilds, can't pursue a commercial activity; Each guild owns deity; sacrificed to idols, drunkenness, drugs, and sexual immorality. Christians faced the dilemma of attending those feasts or possibly losing their livelihood.
- The church
 - The church was small, but it was singled out for this penetrating letter of rebuke.
 - Thyatira receives the greatest punishment.
 - No record of church start (probably Lydia?)
 - A woman named Lydia, from the city of Thyatira, a seller of purple fabrics, a worshiper of God (Acts 16:14).

Jesus Omniscient

- Jesus as Son of God
 - The Son of God who has eyes like a flame of fire and His feet like fine brass (Rev. 2:18).
 - His eyes: Searching what was going on in this church
 - His feet: trampling all the evil works and people who practiced them as a way of making His judgement.
- He knows (The hardworking and brave church)
 - Jesus praise them for 6 things here (works, love, service, faith, patience, and for works again), the Lord always recognizes you efforts and labor of love, even if your fellow man doesn't, know that the Lord does.
 - I know your works, love, service, faith, and your patience...and as for your works, the last are more than the first.
 - I am He who searches the minds and hearts (Rev. 2:23).
 - Maturity & brave: The last works greater than first.

Weakness

- Hard work, but unholy
 - Kept the tolerance with false prophecies and false teaching, seduction of words taking it to idolatry.
 - You cannot tolerate wicked people, that you have tested those who claim to be apostles but are not, and have found them false (Ephesus, Rev. 2:2); vs. You tolerate that woman Jezebel, who calls herself a prophet. By her teaching she misleads my servants into sexual immorality and the eating of food sacrificed to idols (Thyatira, Rev. 2:20-21).
 - Working hard but losing holiness is an unpardonable sin.
- Jezebel
 - Jezebel is the wife of King Ahab, the most evil king of all, and did more to provoke God to anger than all the kings.
 - Jezebel leads the people into spiritual fornication, the worshipping of idols and the allowing of immoral practices. She kills the true prophets who preach words that counter her lies. Jezebel departed from the truth and taught it, and the people followed.
- New Testament Reality
 - She claimed to speak direct messages from God, arguing that believers could indulge the flesh or participate in the culture outwardly while keeping their heart pure toward God.

Jezebel Spirit

- Spirit of Jezebel (Teaching a doctrine of compromise)
 - It is okay to compromise if needed to prosper in this world.
 - To participate in business and maintain social standing, people often had to: 1) Attend guild banquets; 2) Participate in pagan religious ceremonies; 3) Honor local gods; and 4) Join feasts that included immoral practices.
- Contemporary examples of a Jezebel Spirit
 - Truth is flexible if it helps us fit in -> Christians can participate in idol worship without harm;
 - Personal experience is more authoritative than Scripture -> cultural participation is more important than holiness.
 - Christian faith can be blended with any worldview -> God's grace allows moral freedom.
 - What we do with our bodies is spiritually irrelevant -> Spiritual maturity allows participation in sin.

Spiritual Lessons

- Love alone is not enough
 - Jesus commended Thyatira for love, faith, service, perseverance.
 - These are qualities every church should desire. However, Jesus still rebuked them because they tolerated false teaching.
- Tolerance Is not always a virtue
 - Modern culture often treats tolerance as the highest virtue.
 - The church at Thyatira was tolerant—but Jesus did not praise that tolerance.
 - Their tolerance allowed false teaching and moral compromise to spread.
- False teaching often comes from within
 - The greatest threat to Thyatira was not persecution from outside.
 - The threat came from someone inside the church who claimed spiritual authority.
- Christ desires holiness as well as love
 - One of the central messages of Thyatira is that Christ seeks both love and holiness:
 - A healthy Christian life requires: Warm-hearted devotion ; Sound doctrine ; Moral integrity ; Compassionate relationships