

THEREFORE REPENT

REVELATION 2:12-17 // TODD DUGARD
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Jesus wields the sharp, two-edged sword (2:12), and so we must always be repenting (2:16a) as we have already done (2:13) in order to root out error (2:14-15), avoid a battle with God (2:16b), and instead find what we're looking for in him alone (2:17).

GROUP DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Most of us are unlikely to be confronted by someone wielding a sword. So, let's imagine a confrontation with an armed police officer. How does knowing they are authorized to use their weapon affect the way you'll respond to their instructions?
2. Jesus has the full authority from God to compel you to repentance. What is required for repentance to be genuine?
3. The two-edged sword symbolizes Jesus' authority and ability to cut to the heart of the matter with his words (see Hebrews 4:12). When God's word makes sin clear we can repent from our wrong ways. What is an activity or way of thinking that you have repented from?
4. We read that Pergamum was a city where Satan was active; false teaching, persecution, and temptation to adapt to the broader culture affected the church. Some of them went back to idolatry and immorality however, it may not have seemed wrong to them to make these compromises. That can happen to us. What is dangerous about using the current culture to define the morality of the church?

5. Sinful cultural adaption can corrupt church unity and bring part of the church into a conflict with Jesus Christ. This passage of Scripture warns the church to deal with its sinful areas otherwise Jesus would confront their issues. What do you think happens when a church, or a portion of a church, refuses to repent from sinful pursuits?

6. Verse 17 presents the hope for the church as they commit to Christ. The hidden manna refers to God's supernatural provision for our needs. The white stone refers to a new identity based on God's intimate knowledge of each believer. The message is that God will take care of his church if they continue in repentance. What do you require from God as you continue in repentance? What are the unique challenges you face as you determine to live for him?