

**"We'll Not Bow Down, But You Can If You Want To"**  
**Revelation 2:12-17**

**Intro:**

- \* Begin by talking about peer pressure  
Talk about how we often think of youth in regards to this
- \* Bad peer pressure: Temptation  
Good peer pressure: Encouragement
- \* Say, if there is not enough good peer pressure, one will eventually give in to the bad peer pressure

**Transition:** This is exactly what is happening to the church in Pergamum

**1. Most of the Church Will Not Bow Down:**

- A. The pressure has come from outside
  - \* There are idols set up to pagan gods (altar of Zeus, Temple of Asclepius, god of healing)
  - \* There is Emperor/Imperial worship (center of Emperor worship)  
Some governors had the "right of the sword" and could put people to death for not paying homage to Emperor and claiming him LORD
- B. They have refused to bow down by remaining true to His name even under intense persecution (they had a choice who to call Lord and pledge allegiance to)
- C. They refused to bow down even under threat of death by not renouncing faith in Him

**2. Some of the Church Have Willingly Bowed Down:**

- A. The pressure has come from inside  
False teachers who claim to be believers
- B. There are some who are willingly enticing others to sin by getting them to compromise the name and faith of Jesus to worldly ways (bad peer pressure)  
Numbers 25:1-9; 31:16-19  
Jude 3-11  
TEACHING
- C. There are those who are weak and compromising  
They are committing idolatry  
They are committing sexual immorality  
Acts 15:22-29 (this is a teaching they would have known)  
PRACTICING
- D. There are the rest who are tolerating it (not enough good peer pressure)  
They are not dealing with it so Jesus has to!!!!  
TOLERATING

**3. Jesus Is Coming to Judge:**

- A. He has the true "right of the sword" to cause them to bow down to Him alone
- B. He is coming to those who teach falsely and who practice sin to judge them unless repent and change

- C. He is coming to those who tolerate unless they repent  
If they would repent, then they would be dealing with the sin in their midst and would not even have the rebuke of Jesus  
They are really the cause because they have allowed it to happen  
There is the danger for them that if they tolerate it that possibly at some point they will see nothing wrong with it and could end up participating  
Jesus will use those who teach and practice sin as an example to those who merely tolerate

**4. Jesus Will Remove His Judgment and Reward Those Who Change:**

- A. This is to those who repent and change as a "way of life"  
B. Hidden Manna: Heavenly food  
C White Stone with a New Name: white stone was a sign of acquittal/innocence given by a judge at a trial  
white stone was also a ticket to gain admission to a feast

**Conclusion:**

**Revelation 2:12-17**  
**Word Studies**

**2:12**

**Words:**

**Has:**

**Sharp:** Sharp, having a piecing point or keen edge

**Double-Edged:** Cutting on both edges, 2 edged

**Sword:** Sword

**2:13**

**Know:** Perceive, be aware of

Present Indicative:

Active:

**Live:** To reside in a certain, fixed and durable dwelling as opposed to a temporary place

Present Indicative:

Active:

**Throne:** A throne as a symbol of royal authority

**Remain True:** To hold fast in mind, observe

Present Indicative:

Active:

**Name:** Of Christ as the Messiah where His name is said to be honored, revered, believed on, invoked

**Renounce:** To deny by actions that there is a God

Aorist Middle:

**Faith:** The Christian faith, of faith in Christ as the Son of God, incarnate Word, Messiah and Savior and Head of the true Church

**Antipas:** Greek tradition has him the bishop of Pergamum, martyred under Domitian by being thrown into a heated brazen bull which stood at the temple of Diana and so was roasted alive

**Faithful:** True, sure, trustworthy, believable, worthy of credit

**Witness:** Of those who have suffered death in consequence of confessing Christ

**Put to Death:**

Aorist Indicative:

Passive:

**Lives:** Same as 2:13

Present Indicative:

Active:

**2:14**

**Have:**

**Against:** Accusation

**Hold To:** To hold fast in mind, observe

Present Participle:

Active:

**Teaching:** The teaching of someone

**Balaam:** A prophet hired by Balak, king of the Moabites to curse the Israelites

His story is found in Numbers 22-24, 31

In the NT used as a the symbol of false and seducing teachers

(2 Peter 2:15 and Jude 1:11)

**Taught:** To instruct by word of mouth

Imperfect Tense: Refers to continuous linear action in the past

**Balak:** The king of Moab who hired Balaam to curse the Israelites

**Entice to Sin:** To cast before anyone or anything

Aorist Infinitive: Refers to puncticular, not continuous action

Active:

Used figuratively in a moral sense; a trigger or trap on which bait is placed

It is concerned with the fact that it produces certain behavior which can lead to ruin

**Food Sacrificed to Idols:** Whatever is sacrificed or offered to an idol such as flesh or heathen sacrifices

**Committing Sexual Immorality:** Symbolic of those who commit idolatry and therefore are unfaithful to God

Aorist Infinitive:

Active:

### 2:15

**Have:**

Present Indicative:

Active:

**Hold To:** Same as 2:14

Present Participle:

Active:

**Teaching:** Same as 2:14

**Nicolaitans:**

### 2:16

**Repent:** To repent (involving regret and sorrow, accompanied by a true change of heart toward God) and turn to God from idolatry

Aorist Imperative:

Active:

**Otherwise:** Conditional clause meaning indeed

**Come:**

Present Indicative:

Middle:

**Fight:** To make war against

Future:

**Sword of Mouth:**

2:17

**Ear:** He who can hear and understand, let him attend

**Hear:** To understand, comprehend

Aorist Imperative:

Active:

**Overcomes:** Overcome, conquer, subdue

Present Participle:

Active:

**Give:**

Future:

**Hidden Manna:** Symbolizes the enjoyments of the kingdom of heaven in allusion, perhaps to the Jewish tradition that the ark with the pot of manna was hidden by order of king Josiah and will again be brought to light in the reign of the Messiah

**White Stone:** An allusion to the ancient customs among the Greeks of acquitting with a white stone or pebble and condemning with a black one

**New Name:**

**Written:**

Perfect Participle: Stresses the state brought about by the finished results of an action

Passive:

**Known:**

**Receives:**

Present Participle:

Active: