



“All In”

Week 4 – The Compromising Church

warm-up

Group Ice Breaker: *DILUTION*

1. Make a pitcher of lemonade for your group. Pour 1 glass for each person and ask them to drink 1/2 of it. Then refill their glasses with water, and ask them to drink it again. Repeat this 3-4 times, and then talk about the effects of “dilution”.

word & application

Revelation 2:12-17

*“Write this letter to the angel of the church in Pergamum. This is the message from **the one with the sharp two-edged sword**: I know that you live in the city where Satan has his throne, yet you have **remained loyal to me**. You **refused to deny me** even when Antipas, my faithful witness, was martyred among you there in Satan’s city. But I have a few complaints against you. **You tolerate some among you whose teaching is like that of Balaam**, who showed Balak how to trip up the people of Israel. He taught them to **sin by eating food offered to idols** and by committing sexual sin. In a similar way, you have some Nicolaitans among you who follow the same teaching. Repent of your sin, or I will come to you suddenly and fight against them **with the sword of my mouth**. Anyone with ears to hear must listen to the Spirit and understand what he is saying to the churches. To everyone who is victorious I will give some of the manna that has been hidden away in heaven. And I will give to each one a white stone, and on the stone will be engraved a new name that no one understands except the one who receives it.”*

John 1:16-17

“From his abundance we have all received one gracious blessing after another. For the law was given through Moses, but God’s unfailing love and faithfulness came through Jesus Christ.”

Matthew 9:11-13

“But when the Pharisees saw this, they asked his disciples, “Why does your teacher eat with such scum (with tax collectors and sinners)?” When Jesus heard this, he said, “Healthy people don’t need a doctor—sick people do.” Then he added, “Now go and learn the meaning of this Scripture: ‘I want you to show mercy, not offer sacrifices.’”

Discussion & Application: *Explore these questions through in-depth conversation.*

Sometimes it is easy to fall into a lifestyle that is driven by a “Performance-Failure-Guilt-Repentance” cycle. Jesus came to stop this crazy cycle in our lives and offer a relationship based in grace and mercy.

- In what ways can we fall into a “performance-driven Christianity”? Why does this happen?*
- Do we ever catch ourselves trying to “earn” grace from God?*
- How can this kind of spiritual regression affect our ability to reflect God’s kindness and mercy to others?*

prayer

Share recent “God moments.” Pray over requests. Pray that we can accept and embrace the true Gospel that frees us from sacrifice and calls us to a life that accepts and reflects God’s mercy. Pray that as we do this, the Holy Spirit draws us away from the influences that trap us in a crazy cycle and into a life motivated by pure love.