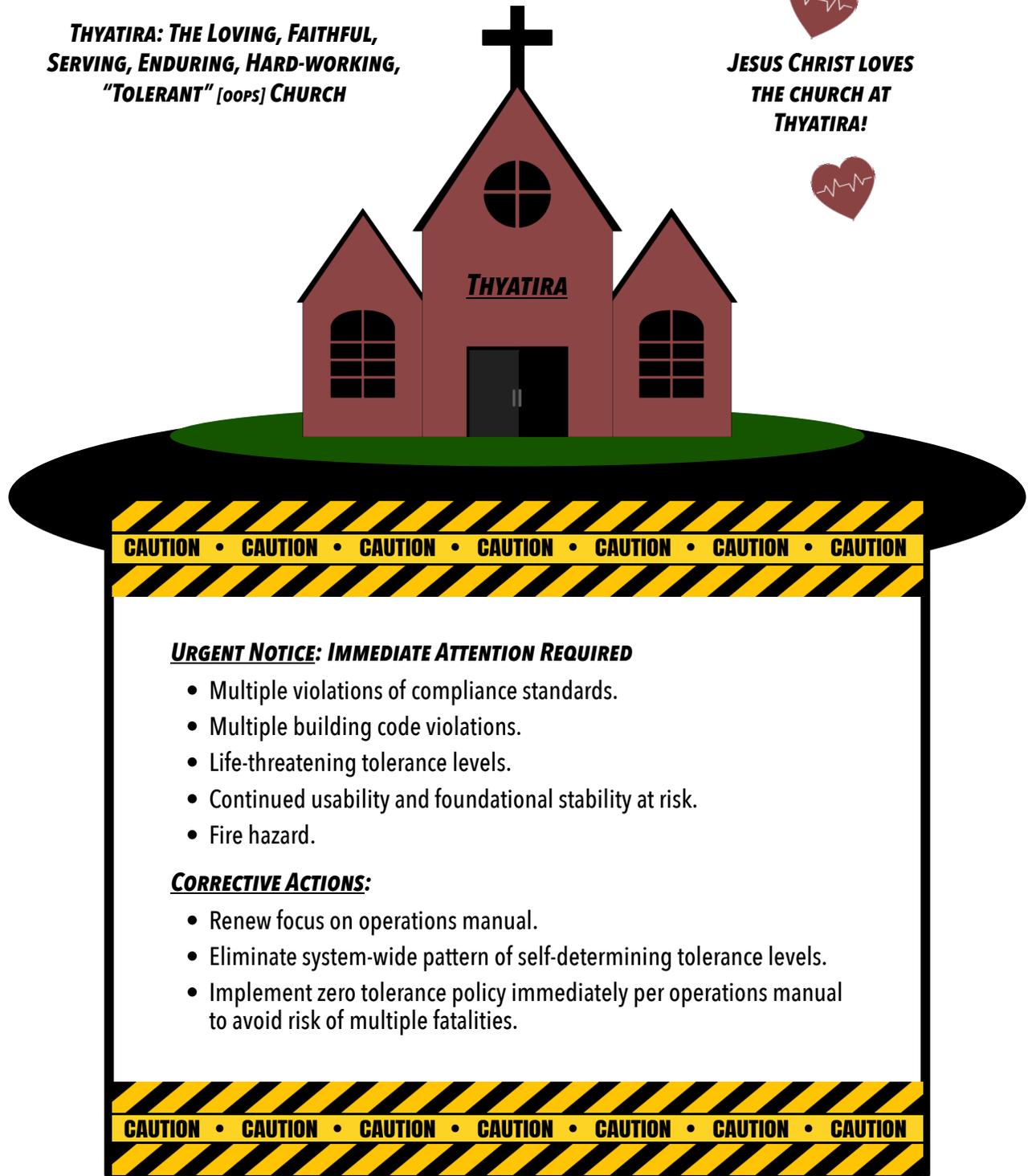


**THYATIRA: THE LOVING, FAITHFUL,
SERVING, ENDURING, HARD-WORKING,
"TOLERANT" [oops] CHURCH**

**JESUS CHRIST LOVES
THE CHURCH AT
THYATIRA!**



CAUTION • CAUTION • CAUTION • CAUTION • CAUTION • CAUTION • CAUTION

URGENT NOTICE: IMMEDIATE ATTENTION REQUIRED

- Multiple violations of compliance standards.
- Multiple building code violations.
- Life-threatening tolerance levels.
- Continued usability and foundational stability at risk.
- Fire hazard.

CORRECTIVE ACTIONS:

- Renew focus on operations manual.
- Eliminate system-wide pattern of self-determining tolerance levels.
- Implement zero tolerance policy immediately per operations manual to avoid risk of multiple fatalities.

CAUTION • CAUTION • CAUTION • CAUTION • CAUTION • CAUTION • CAUTION

"HE WHO HAS AN EAR, LET HIM HEAR WHAT THE SPIRIT SAYS TO THE CHURCHES."

1. **THE SON OF GOD “WHO HAS EYES LIKE A FLAME OF FIRE” SENDS HIS WORDS TO THE MESSENGER OF THE CHURCH IN THYATIRA, 2:18.**

- (Revelation 2:18 ESV) And to the angel of the church in Thyatira write: “The words of the Son of God, who has eyes like a flame of fire, and whose feet are like burnished bronze.”

A. **The Lord of the Church sends his words to the messenger of the church in Thyatira.**

What message will the messenger bring to the church fellowship? Will he be faithful and true to the words of the Son of God?

- B. **The messenger would then be responsible to communicate Christ’s words to the church.**
- C. **Those in the church will now decide if they will hear the Spirit speak the words of the Son of God “who has eyes like a flame of fire.”**

We face the same thing now. We have “letters”—*Scripture*—delivered to us from God. So will we receive it as from God? Will we submit to the Holy Spirit through the word of God for the direction of our church?

- (1 Thessalonians 2:13 ESV) And we also thank God constantly for this, that when you received the word of God, which you heard from us, you accepted it not as the word of men but as what it really is, the word of God, which is at work in you believers.

Grant Osborne ... This is the only place in this book where the “Son of God” title is used ... and the reason most likely lies in the centrality of Apollo, son of Zeus, in Thyatira. It is Jesus, not Apollo, who is the true Son of God. ... there is likely a further opposition to the local patron god Apollo, pictured often there as a warrior god astride a horse and wielding a double-bladed battle-ax. It is Jesus who is the true divine warrior, and his power is soon to be felt by the church. [Osborne, G. R. (2002). *Revelation* (pp. 153–154). Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Academic.]

2. **THE SON OF GOD “WHO HAS EYES LIKE A FLAME OF FIRE” PRAISES THEM FOR THEIR LOVE, FAITH, SERVICE, ENDURANCE, AND INCREASING GOOD WORKS, 2:19.**

- (Revelation 2:19 ESV) **I know your works,**

your love and faith and service and patient endurance, and that your latter works exceed the first.

3. **THE SON OF GOD “WHO HAS EYES LIKE A FLAME OF FIRE” DENOUNCES THEIR TOLERANT ATTITUDE TOWARD THE SELF-PROCLAIMED PROPHETESS JEZEBEL, 2:20.**

- (Revelation 2:20 ESV) But I have this against you, that you tolerate that woman Jezebel, **who calls herself a prophetess** and is teaching and seducing my servants to practice sexual immorality and to eat food sacrificed to idols.

*****The intent of the followers of Balaam, the Nicolaitans, and Jezebel is the same: to deceive God’s people by persuading them to adopt a lifestyle that would allow them to be accepted in the world and to continue membership in the church.** By accommodating themselves to the lifestyle that a guild required, the church members no longer had to fear being ostracized. [Kistemaker, S. J., & Hendriksen, W. (1953–2001). *Exposition of the Book of Revelation* (Vol. 20, p. 138). Grand Rapids: Baker Book House.]

THE DYNAMICS OF COMPROMISE WITHIN A CHURCH ...

- (Revelation 2:20a ESV) But I have this against you, that you tolerate that woman Jezebel.

Ἀφείς ... The Greek word for tolerate is quite interesting in that it has such a broad range of meaning. Apheis means ... to tolerate, permit; to forgive, pardon.

Thyatira was a good church that struggled with a sinful, overly permissive approach.

- A. **Compromise often begins through self-serving personal relationships within the church fellowship.**
- B. **The Thyatirans had adopted an attitude of sinful permissiveness-tolerance toward Jezebel.**
- C. **They had adjusted their tolerance levels to fit a perceived need for the good of the church.**

The people in the church at Thyatira tolerated an influential woman in their fellowship—Jezebel. They “did the math” and at some point determined that she added more than she took away.

Churches in general are very guilty of the

end justifying the means when it comes to tolerating people who they calculate have more in the plus column than the minus column when it comes to benefiting the church.

For instance, personality issues or doctrinal red flags are often readily ignored if the person makes large financial donations to the church, or if the person invests a great deal of “sweat equity” in the church. Many church leaders gain their considerable influence by working very hard to make themselves indispensable.

- D. *They chose to trust in human decision-making and felt-needs over fully submitting to the word of God.*
- E. *However, this self-determined attitude would eventually undermine their ability to trust in the power and the authority of the word of God*
- F. *Compromise does not typically begin with a frontal attack but small decisions made from a “what could it hurt” attitude and not looking to God’s word.*
- G. *Compromise often begins with cowardice.*

“But if we do this ... or if we don’t this ... they may leave the church.”

- H. *Compromise is often fostered by good intentions.*

This seems to happen quite often. “Let’s get them involved.” But good intentions can produce disastrous results.

- I. *If you are not growing in your faith, you will compromise your faith and become ineffective and unfruitful.*
 - (2 Peter 1:8 ESV) For if these qualities are yours and are increasing, they keep you from being **ineffective or unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ.**
- J. *Stagnant, compromised faith results in spiritual blindness and spiritual memory loss.*
 - (2 Peter 1:9 ESV) For whoever lacks these qualities is **so nearsighted that he is blind, having forgotten that he was cleansed from his former sins.**

JEZEBEL—THE PROFILE OF A FALSE TEACHER ...

A. *A false teacher presumes position, 2:20.*

- (Revelation 2:20 ESV) But I have this against you, that you tolerate that woman **Jezebel, who calls herself a prophetess and is teaching and seducing my servants to practice sexual immorality and to eat food sacrificed to idols.**

Jezebel was self-anointed. Jezebel “calls herself a prophetess and is teaching and seducing my servants to practice sexual immorality and to eat food sacrificed to idols.” No calling or commissioning necessary for the false teacher. She presumed that she was a person who could speak for God to God’s people.

BECAUSE OF THEIR SINFUL TOLERANCE OF JEZEBEL THE LEADERSHIP AT THYATIRA WAS FAILING TO PROTECT AND SHEPHERD THE FLOCK OF GOD.

B. *Jezebel believed she had special knowledge that allowed her to go beyond Scripture.*

- (2 John 9–11 ESV) **Everyone who goes on ahead and does not abide in the teaching of Christ, does not have God.** Whoever abides in the teaching has both the Father and the Son. 10 If anyone comes to you and does not bring this teaching, **do not receive him into your house or give him any greeting, 11 for whoever greets him takes part in his wicked works.**

- (1 Corinthians 4:6 ESV) I have applied all these things to myself and Apollos for your benefit, brothers, **that you may learn by us not to go beyond what is written, that none of you may be puffed up in favor of one against another.**

*A false teacher presumes to have special knowledge—as in being better able to understand the secrets of true spirituality. This special knowledge frees the false teacher from the direct, objective teaching of the Bible to go beyond to **her** ideas and **her** opinions untethered by Scripture.*

In Jezebel’s case this special knowledge was “the deep things of Satan” and guided by her special insight she ventured beyond the constraints of Scripture.

- (Revelation 2:24b ESV) ... what some call the deep things of Satan, to you I say, I do not lay on you any other

“WHAT COULD IT HURT?”

ANYONE WHO ENCOURAGES SUCH PEOPLE BECOMES A PARTNER IN THEIR EVIL WORK. (2 JOHN 11 NLT)

4. THE SON OF GOD “WHO HAS EYES LIKE A FLAME OF FIRE” LEVELS HIS JUDGMENT ON JEZEBEL AND HER FOLLOWERS, 2:20-23.

burden.

C. A false teacher is a fixer, Revelation 2:20.

The people in Thyatira had a real problem, and Jezebel fixed it. If the members of this fellowship completely fulfilled their obligation to the trade unions, then they would violate the teaching of Scripture and jeopardize their standing in the church and before God. But if they wholeheartedly obeyed the word of God and refused to take part in the idolatry and the sex that was part of the idolatry, then they would jeopardize their jobs. Jezebel “fixed” this by increasing the tolerance levels from zero to an acceptable level within the church. After all, she was a prophetess, right? Problem solved.

D. A false teacher brings death and destruction, 2 Peter 2:1, Matthew 7:13.

- (2 Peter 2:1 ESV) But false prophets also arose among the people, just as there will be false teachers among you, **who will secretly bring in destructive heresies, even denying the Master who bought them, bringing upon themselves swift destruction.**
- (Matthew 7:13 ESV) Enter by the narrow gate. For the gate is wide and **the way is easy that leads to destruction**, and those who enter by it are many.

**THE WIDE ROAD ALWAYS LEADS TO DESTRUCTION. ALWAYS.
THERE IS NO OTHER DESTINATION ON THE WIDE ROAD.**

E. A false teacher will be given time to repent, 2:21.

- (Revelation 2:21 ESV) I gave her time to repent, but she refuses to repent of her sexual immorality.

F. False teachers and those who follow them who refuse to repent will be judged, 2:22-23.

- (Revelation 2:22-23 ESV) Behold, I will throw her onto a sickbed, and those who commit adultery with her I will throw into great tribulation, unless they repent of her works, 23 and I will strike her children dead. And all the churches will know that I am he who searches mind and heart, and I will

give to each of you according to your works.

Those who are seduced by the false teacher will be severely disciplined by Christ unless they repent and publicly denounce her ministry. The Son of God said he would strike the converts of Jezebel dead. When the Son of God judges the unrepentant, then all the churches will know that nothing is hidden from his sight.

- (Jeremiah 17:10 ESV) I the LORD search the heart and test the mind, to give every man according to his ways, according to the fruit of his deeds.

5. THE SON OF GOD “WHO HAS EYES LIKE A FLAME OF FIRE” EXHORTS “THE REST OF YOU” TO HOLD FAST UNTIL HE RETURNS, 2:24-28.

- (Revelation 2:24-29 ESV) But to the rest of you in Thyatira, who do not hold this teaching, who have not learned what some call the deep things of Satan, to you I say, I do not lay on you any other burden. 25 Only hold fast what you have until I come. 26 The one who conquers and who keeps my works until the end, to him I will give authority over the nations, 27 and he will rule them with a rod of iron, as when earthen pots are broken in pieces, even as I myself have received authority from my Father. 28 And I will give him the morning star.

The rest—those who do not hold this teaching and refused to learn teaching that was outside the authority of God’s word—would be spared from carrying any further burden. **It is almost as if Christ is saying, “You’ve been through enough.”**

The rest were simply exhorted to hold fast to the faith until Christ’s return. The conquerers were promised a part in Christ’s rule in the millennial kingdom. The conquerers were promised Christ himself—“the morning star.”

**HE WHO HAS AN EAR, LET HIM HEAR WHAT
THE SPIRIT SAYS TO THE CHURCHES.**

(REVELATION 2:29 ESV)

REVELATION MESSAGE 8 - Thyatira—The Loving, Faithful, Serving, Enduring, Hard-working, Tolerant Church -

Revelation 2:18-29 - ffc - Dave Scott - 011721 - STUDY SHEETS

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