

**Problem:**

the sin of compromise

the church is often found confronting the culture while conforming to - 1 Jn 2:15-17;  
the fear is that we will profess to know God but deny Him by our works - titus 1:16

**Main Idea:**

Our lesson from Pergamum:  
a church that is courageous in the culture  
but compromising within  
has nonetheless become an enemy of Him  
The danger is not culture but compromise

**Implication:**

we are not at war with culture but with sin - 1 Pet 2:11-12

**Application:**

fighting sin is not about loss but about gain - heb 12:1-2

**Text:****Our lesson from Pergamum:**

Rev. 2:12 ¶ "And to the angel of the church in **Pergamum** write: 'The words of him who has the **sharp two-edged sword**.

*pergamum - parchment (pergamena) - great library - not economically impressive but culturally impressive  
-capitol of asia for 400 yrs  
-their proconsul had "the right of the sword" they could put any person to death at their word alone  
sword - Heb 4:12; Eph 6:17; Rev 19:15*

**A church that is courageous in the culture**

Rev. 2:13 ¶ " 'I know where you dwell, where Satan's throne is. Yet **you hold fast my name**, and **you did not deny my faith** even in the days of Antipas my faithful witness (martyr), who was killed among you, where Satan dwells.

*satan throne - it was the center of Caesar worship - eph 2:1-3  
it was the place where people were required on pain of death to take the name of Lord and give it to Caesar instead of to Christ*

**But compromising within**

Rev. 2:14 But I have a few things against you: you have some there who hold **the teaching of Balaam**, who taught Balak to put a stumbling block before the sons of Israel, so that they might eat food sacrificed to idols and practice sexual immorality.

Rev. 2:15 So also you have some who hold **the teaching of the Nicolaitans**.

*Balaam - Num 24:10-25:9; 31:13-16; Jude 10-13; 2 Pet 2:12-15;  
compromise within - 1 Cor 5; 2 Cor 6:14-17 - affects whole church  
nicolations - contrast ephesus - Rev 2:2, 6*

**has nonetheless become an enemy of Him**

Rev. 2:16 Therefore repent. If not, I will come to you soon (suddenly) and **war against them** with **the sword of my mouth**.

*war against them - James 4:4; Jn 15:18-20; 2 tim 3:12-13;*

**The danger is not culture but compromise**

Rev. 2:17 He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches. To the one who **conquers** I will give some of the **hidden manna**, and I will give him a **white stone**, with **a new name** written on the stone **that no one knows except the one who receives it.**

**implication:** conquers - **we are not at war with culture we are at war with sin** - 1 Pet 2:11-12

*be killing sin or sin be killing you*

*overcome - Jn 16:33 -> 1 Jn 5:4-5 - not our effort but His- through the cross*

**Application:** i will give - **not about loss but gain** - Heb 12:1-2 (lay aside); phil 3:7-11 (to gain)

*- gaining Him as our security- nothing else (food sacrificed to idols)*

*manna - Jn 6:25-35; 48-51 -*

*- gaining Him as our significance - nothing else*

*white stone with new name - (acquittal blackballed comes from this)*

*- Matt 16:13-18 simon or Peter (abram/abraham, jacob/Israel, Saul/Paul)*

*- Judges 6:11-16 gideon - but i will be with you*

**Articles for further study:**

<http://teampyro.blogspot.com/2008/01/how-church-should-be-different-from.html>

<https://gotquestions.org/church-in-Pergamum.html>