

## THE SINS OF THE SEVEN CHURCHES

### INTRODUCTION

**A. Revelation 1:4, 12-13, 20**

In its massive apocalyptic message, we must not forget the Revelation was initially addressed to seven churches in Asia.

**B. Revelation 2:1-3:22**

Those congregations each received a personal message from Jesus, mostly filled with warnings regarding His disappointment in them. Let us learn from them.

### I. ABANDONED FIRST LOVE

**A. Revelation 2:4**

Despite certain commendable qualities, the church of Ephesus was criticized by Jesus for having *“left your first love.”*

**B. Colossians 3:14**

Love holds everything else together. When it is gone, nothing worthwhile remains.

**C. Matthew 22:34-40**

Love for the Lord is closely related to love of the brethren and these two loves are what every bit of submission to God depends on.

### II. IDOLATRY

**A. Revelation 2:14, 20**

The Lord chastised the churches in Pergamos and in Thyatira because they would *“eat things sacrificed to idols.”*

**B. Acts 15:20-21, 29; 21:25**

When Jewish Christians were disturbing Gentile Christians by imposing circumcision upon them as a religious necessity, the apostles and the elders of

Jerusalem addressed the problem by telling them such things were irrelevant, but reminded them of certain fundamental truths, including that meat sacrificed to idols should be abstained from.

**C. 1<sup>st</sup> Corinthians 10:14-22**

Eating food offered to idols is totally incongruent with eating the Lord's Supper.

**D. 1<sup>st</sup> Corinthians 8:1-13; 10:23-33**

Ultimately, food is just food, even if someone else offered it to an idol and the eater won't be held to account for that. However, intentionally eating such or doing so without regard to weaker consciences is wrong.

**III. SEXUAL IMMORALITY**

**A. Revelation 2:14, 20**

Both the churches in Pergamos and in Thyatira were reprovved by Christ for the sin of "*sexual immorality.*"

**B. 1<sup>st</sup> Thessalonians 4:3-8**

Abstinence is absolutely the will of God and the sanctification of man whereas fornication blatantly rejects the will of God.

**C. 1<sup>st</sup> Corinthians 5:1-13**

Sexual immorality, left unchecked, corrupts the whole church. Such demands discipline.

**IV. FALSE DOCTRINE**

**A. Revelation 2:15**

We do not know who "*the Nicolaitans*" were or what their "*doctrine*" was, but the Anointed One regarded that doctrine with "*hate.*"

**B. Romans 6:17; 1<sup>st</sup> Timothy 4:16**

Sound doctrine, that is wholesome teaching, provides deliverance and salvation.

C. **Romans 16:17; Ephesians 4:14**

Unsound doctrine must be avoided and refuted.

V. **FALSE PROPHECY**

A. **Revelation 2:20**

Our Savior implied wrongdoing in the congregation at Thyatira for having among them *“that woman Jezebel , who calls herself a prophetess.”*

B. **1<sup>st</sup> John 4:1**

Any claim of prophecy should welcome verification.

C. **Deuteronomy 13:1-5; 18:20-22**

There are two divinely provided tests of prophets:

1. If what is said contradicts what God has already said, it's false, and
2. If what is foretold does not come to pass, it's false.

D. **1<sup>st</sup> Corinthians 13:8-9**

Prophecy's end was foretold and we ought to accept that.

VI. **DEADNESS**

A. **Revelation 3:1**

The church in Sardis was blamed for being *“dead.”*

B. **Ephesians 2:1**

Sin causes people to be dead. A church full of sin is a dead church.

C. **James 2:26**

Faith unaccompanied by obedience also causes people to be dead. A church that only talks about its faith without acting upon it is also a dead church.

VII. **LUKEWARMTH**

A. **Revelation 3:15-17**

Our King faulted the church of the Laodiceans for being *“lukewarm.”*

B. **Romans 12:11**

Fervency must replace lag!

C. **Matthew 25:14-30**

As a church, we must do what we can with what we got!