



new life fellowship

**Sermon Title: Revelation: The Church at Pergamum**

**Speaker: Richard Villodas, Lead Pastor**

**Scripture: Revelation 2:12-14**

<sup>12</sup> “To the angel of the church in Pergamum write:

These are the words of him who has the sharp, double-edged sword. <sup>13</sup> I know where you live—where Satan has his throne. Yet you remain true to my name. You did not renounce your faith in me, not even in the days of Antipas, my faithful witness, who was put to death in your city—where Satan lives.

<sup>14</sup> Nevertheless, I have a few things against you: There are some among you who hold to the teaching of Balaam, who taught Balak to entice the Israelites to sin so that they ate food sacrificed to idols and committed sexual immorality. <sup>15</sup> Likewise, you also have those who hold to the teaching of the Nicolaitans. <sup>16</sup> Repent therefore! Otherwise, I will soon come to you and will fight against them with the sword of my mouth.

<sup>17</sup> Whoever has ears, let them hear what the Spirit says to the churches. To the one who is victorious, I will give some of the hidden manna. I will also give that person a white stone with a new name written on it, known only to the one who receives it.

*(NIV)*

#### **Sermon Outline:**

The church at Pergamum has a wonderful reputation of remaining loyal to God in the darkest of times. When we look at this church, we see how it can be possible to NOT renounce Jesus, but restrict his influence in our lives.

The church throughout the ages has wrestled with the question regarding whether or not they will allow Jesus to shape every part of their lives or only certain part of their lives.

The Book of Revelation is the most misunderstood, misapplied, and dangerous book of the Bible. It is prophetic literature, telling us what the future holds and who holds the future. It is apocalyptic literature which unveils and reveals what is happening behind the scenes, and it is also resistance literature, a letter that was sent to different churches to encourage them.

To the Church in Ephesus Jesus says, I know your works.  
To the Church in Smyrna Jesus says, I know your affliction and poverty.  
To the Church in Pergamum Jesus says, I know where you live.

There are spiritual forces at work that we cannot see which can lead to us seeing our neighbor as the ultimate enemy. Your neighbor is not the ultimate enemy.

Jesus wants us to know that there are powers in the world that we must content with.

1. No one is above receiving a word of criticism from Jesus.
2. No matter how faithful we were in the past, we are all called to the daily work of aligning our longings and appetites to Jesus.
3. We can be devoted to Jesus, and still be shaped by the way of the world.
4. We must be mindful of the ways we justify our sin.
5. Our contradictions and mixture are to lead to a life of repentance.

Does Jesus have all of you, or just some of you? Are you only giving Him access to certain parts of your life?

With all the difficulty and hard words that God offers we are reminded of the radical love and loyalty that Jesus Christ extends toward us.

**Sermon Summary:**

This Sunday, Richard Villodas, Lead Pastor, continues our sermon series through a portion of the Book of Revelation. Today Pastor Rich preaches on church of Pergamum and the strong words of Jesus to this church and how important these words are for us today.

**Sermon Questions:**

1. Do you feel an invitation from Christ in today's scripture passage? Do any of the words resonate with you? If so, why?
2. Are you wondering where God is in your life right now? Do you not know that Jesus is moving and powerful right now? Can you feel Jesus's presence with you right now or do you feel as though He has forgotten you? Jesus is present to you at this very moment.
3. Are you allowing yourself to come under the authority of Jesus in **all** aspects of your life? Will you allow Jesus to shape every part of your life or are you only to only have certain parts of your life shaped by Jesus? To what degree do you give Jesus access to your life around the way you manage your time, money or work, how you work through conflict or the way you think through sexuality?