

Body Bugs: Dealing with infections that hinder unity in the body

Body Bug #3: Friendship with the World

Revelation 2:18-29

Main Idea: When you harmonize the truth of the word with the shifting values of the world, you do immense damage to your relationship with God. Jesus gives us four ways that we can avoid friendship with the world.

1. TO AVOID FRIENDSHIP WITH THE WORLD... We need to remember the infinite knowledge of Christ and his passion for purity. *Revelation 2:18*

- A. The believers in Thyatira needed a vision of Christ. 2:18a
 - 1. Thyatira was an industrial center.
 - 2. Thyatira had many trade guilds.
- B. Jesus gave them a vision of his ministry of judgment. 2:18b
 - 1. He is the Son of God.
 - 2. He has eyes like a flame of fire, and he had feet like burnished bronze.

2. TO AVOID FRIENDSHIP WITH THE WORLD... We need to be aware of places where we have harmonized Christ and the world. *Rev. 2:19-21; 24-25*

- A. *Jesus' encouragement* – Jesus commends them for their spiritual growth. 2:19
 - 1. The quality of their deeds is outstanding. 2:19a
 - 2. The quantity of their deeds has increased. 2:19b
 - 3. Jesus encourages them to press on. 2:24-25
- B. *Jesus' confrontation* – Jesus says they have been trying to harmonize Christ and the world. 2:20
 - 1. They have been tolerating a false teacher, Jezebel.
 - 2. That false teacher has been trying to harmonize Christ and principles of the world.
 - 3. Jesus has given her time to repent and she has not.
- C. *The application for us* – Beware the places where you harmonize Christ and the world.
 - 1. Key problem: Bad beliefs in our world change with the culture. *We must be aware!*
 - 2. Bad belief #1: The belief that all truth is relative, and therefore, “we must be tolerant.”
 - 3. Bad belief #2: The belief that all morality is relative, so “who are we to judge?”
 - 4. Bad belief #3: The belief that life is only valuable if it is convenient for me.
 - 5. Bad belief #4: The belief that it would be fun to “get rich quick,” by any means possible.

3. TO AVOID FRIENDSHIP WITH THE WORLD... We need to understand the consequences of friendship with the world. *Rev. 2:22-23; James 4:4*

- A. Friendship with the world is spiritual adultery and fractures relationships. James 4:1-4
- B. Friendship with the world brings natural consequences to sin. Rev. 2:22-23, 24b
 - 1. The believers in Thyatira experienced physical suffering. 2:22
 - 2. The believers in Thyatira experienced emotional anguish. 2:23a
 - 3. The believers in Thyatira experienced spiritual warfare. 2:24
 - 4. Jesus allows consequences to make his holiness clear to all. 2:23b

4. TO AVOID FRIENDSHIP WITH THE WORLD... We must embrace the promises of God. *Rev. 2:26-29*

- A. Overcomers will receive authority over the nations. 2:26-27
- B. Overcomers will receive the morning star. 2:28-29