

Small Group Discussion Questions

RENEWING OUR CHURCH'S MISSION – NO. 4

“Renewing Our Commitment to Truth” – Revelation 2:12-17

Theme: *The current rejection of the notion of absolute truth has created a climate of moral uncertainty. How do we find our way out of this maze of confusion?*

One of the most important values in our culture today is the notion of *tolerance*, that there is no objective, universal, overarching truth. All viewpoints, lifestyles, beliefs and behaviors are equally valid. We're told that it's not a matter of saying that something is right or wrong, but that you find what's right for you. However, if all ideas are equally valid, then no idea is really worth our allegiance. The result is moral chaos and confusion.

Jesus wrote a letter to a church struggling with such issues. It was located in Pergamum, a city especially known for its religious diversity. Temples and altars were everywhere. Zeus, Athena, Dionysos, Asklepios and emperors were all worshipped here. What does Jesus say to people who are not sure any more about the truth? How do we find our way out of our maze of moral confusion?

Gathering Together (Icebreaker)

Baseball legend Yogi Berra passed away at the age of 90. “Berra-isms” (colloquial expressions attributed to Yogi that lack logic) are numerous, such as “It ain’t over till it’s over,” and “A nickel ain’t worth a dime anymore.” Do you have a favorite “Berra-ism”?

Growing Together (Truth/Equipping)

Read Revelation 2:12-17:

1. The summary paragraphs (above) mention that one of the most popular values in our culture today is that of *tolerance*. It's the notion that all ideas and viewpoints are equally valid. Where might such a perspective take us? How would it impact marriage, family life, and society?
2. Some say it doesn't matter what you believe, as long as you live right and respect others. According to this passage, does Jesus share such a perspective? Support your answer by referring to key statements found in the passage.

3. What doctrines are non-negotiable for someone to become a Christian? Are there other doctrines that may not be essential for salvation, but which should still be held for membership in our church? Would your list include a particular view on predestination, the role of women in the church, or end time events?
4. While interacting with a new neighbor, he/she makes the comment, “*I believe that many diverse paths can lead us to who or what is called God.*” How do you respond? See John 14:6; Acts 4:12.
5. The following message is often communicated: “*Go ahead and indulge yourself. Who's going to know? God will still love you. He'll forgive you.*” Will He? How do you respond to those who promote such a message? See verse 16.
6. Who or what is Satan? According to this passage, what are some of the main ways Satan tempts believers? What can we do to resist his attacks? See also 1 Peter 5:8.
7. When it comes to framing convictions about such issues as money management, salvation, work, leisure, education, future plans, singleness, marriage, divorce, abortion, the environment, etc., is there an objective, moral GPS to help us determine right from wrong, and truth from error? Or, is “truth” an individual matter because there are no moral absolutes? See John 17:17 and 2 Timothy 3:16-17.

Getting Real Together (Accessibility)

1. Have you settled the issue as to whether or not there is an objective, moral guide for our lives, or if “truth” is relative? If you have a moral guide to help you determine right from wrong, what is it? How did you come to this conclusion?
2. What 3 symbolic rewards does Jesus promise you if you remain faithful to Him (see vs.17)? What does each symbol mean?

Praying Together (Supplication)

Pray that each member of your group and our entire church will stand courageously on the authority of the Bible. Pray that the promises of Jesus regarding your heavenly reward will be of encouragement to you.