

SMALL GROUP QUESTIONS

Week 3 | Authenticity | Rev. 2:12-17

Ice Breaker

Have you ever caught someone trying to scam you? What did you notice that allowed you to see that the scammers were not who they claimed to be?

General Study Questions

- How does this passage fit into the book as a whole?
- How does it flow from the previous section of the text?
- What in the passage stands out to you?
- How does this passage minister to its original audience?
- How does this text minister to us today?
- Is there a sin to confess?
- Is there a cause for thanksgiving or praise to God?
- Is there a promise or truth to trust in?
- Is there an attitude to change?
- Is there a command to obey or an example to imitate?
- Is there anything confusing or hard to understand about the passage?
- How is the gospel present in this passage?
- What is the single, main point of the passage?
- How would you apply this passage to your life?

Text Specific Questions

1. In the sermon, Matthew mentioned how the city of Pergamum worshipped counterfeit gods. Review what some of those counterfeit gods were and how they can only imitate Jesus. Are there counterfeit gods our culture worships?
2. In Revelation 2:13 we see that, despite persecution, the church was continuing to declare Jesus' name. What obstacles keep people from sharing their faith today? How can this church inspire us to boldly declare our faith?
3. Review what the teachings of Balaam and the Nicolaitans were. How did allowing these teachings contradict the faith that the church claimed to have? Are there ways that you see Christians contradicting the faith they claim today?
4. Why were the sins of eating food sacrificed to idols and sexual immorality such a big deal that God would "war against" those who practiced them?
5. How can we reconcile the warning of Revelation 2:16 with God's grace and the fact that we are not perfect but sinful?
6. In Revelation 2:17 there are two rewards promised. Although the exact meaning of each reward is debated, in the end the real reward is Jesus. He is with us now to sustain us, and we will stand in His presence for eternity. How does knowing that Jesus is our reward convict us to live an authentic Christian life?
7. Living an authentic Christian life doesn't require perfection, but we can expect continued growth. What areas have you seen God grow you in this last year? What areas do you believe He is calling you to grow in this current year? Consider writing down your answers in your measurement and output boxes in your journal.
8. Read Galatians 5:22-23. Which fruit(s) of the Spirit is most evident in your life? Which fruit(s) needs to become more evident in your life? Read Galatians 5:19-21. Are their works of the flesh that you need to repent over and remove from your life? Consider writing down your answers in your measurement and output boxes in your journal.

Close in Prayer

Have each person share any additional prayer requests they may have. Spend some time praying for those requests as well as the outputs people have written down or shared. If you have a larger group, consider breaking up into smaller groups of 2-3 for this time. Be sure to write down prayer requests and outputs so you can pray during the week.