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notes outline

THE 7 LETTERS | THYATIRA LETTER

"And to the angel of the church in Thyatira write: 'The words of the Son of God, who has eyes like a flame of fire, and whose feet are like burnished bronze. "'I know your works, your love and faith and service and patient endurance, and that your latter works exceed the first.

But I have this against you, that you tolerate that woman Jezebel, who calls herself a prophetess and is teaching and seducing my servants to practice sexual immorality and to eat food sacrificed to idols. I gave her time to repent, but she refuses to repent of her sexual immorality. Behold, I will throw her onto a sickbed, and those who commit adultery with her I will throw into great tribulation, unless they repent of her works, and I will strike her children dead. And all the churches will know that I am he who searches mind and heart, and I will give to each of you according to your works.

But to the rest of you in Thyatira, who do not hold this teaching, who have not learned what some call the deep things of Satan, to you I say, I do not lay on you any other burden. Only hold fast what you have until I come. The one who conquers and who keeps my works until the end, to him I will give authority over the nations, and he will rule them with a rod of iron, as when earthen pots are broken in pieces, even as I myself have received authority from my Father. And I will give him the morning star. He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches.'"
Revelation 2:18-29

"Contemporary tolerance is ironically, extremely intolerant."
D.A. Carson

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The message to Thyatira goes against the grain of modernity by setting limits to tolerance.

"And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth."
John 1:14

Jesus full of grace and truth:

- He didn't speak truth as a means of isolating people from God or His people.
- He didn't offer grace as a dumbing down of sin to make it more palatable.
- He acknowledged the full implications of sin and at the same time did not condemn sinners.

Jesus was intolerant of hypocrisy.

"Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you clean the outside of the cup and the plate, but inside they are full of greed and self-indulgence. You blind Pharisee! First clean the inside of the cup and the plate, that the outside also may be clean."
Matthew 23:25-26

Jesus was intolerant of hypocrisy and still was patient.

Grace & truth requires patience.

Jesus was intolerant of other ways to Heaven.

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"Jesus said to him, 'I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. If you had known me, you would have known my Father also. From now on you do know him and have seen him.'"
John 14:6-7

Jesus was intolerant of other ways to Heaven and communicated tenderly and with support.

Grace & truth requires a tender approach, as well as follow up support.

Jesus was intolerant of self-centeredness.

Jesus was intolerant of self-centeredness and He modeled sacrifice and service.

Grace & truth requires examining our own example.

Jesus was intolerant of sin.

"For our sake he (God) made him (Jesus) to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God."
2 Corinthians 5:21

Jesus was intolerant of sin and moved toward sinners.

Grace & truth requires proximity not insulation.

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"But you must remember, beloved, the predictions of the apostles of our Lord Jesus Christ. They said to you, "In the last time there will be scoffers, following their own ungodly passions." It is these who cause divisions, worldly people, devoid of the Spirit. But you, beloved, building yourselves up in your most holy faith and praying in the Holy Spirit, keep yourselves in the love of God, waiting for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ that leads to eternal life. And have mercy on those who doubt;"
Jude 1:17-22

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