

Don't let ANYTHING

Contaminate your Relationship with Jesus

Here's a **DEFINITION** of **CONTAMINATE**:

To make something impure by the addition of a polluting substance

Don't make your Relationship with Jesus IMPURE

By adding ANY polluting substance

We **continue** our **look** at the **7 Ltrs** to the **7 Churches**

Remember - these **7 letters** were written to 7 **ACTUAL** **churches**

But – **these 7 letters** also have a **Prophetic Perspective**

& If **you look** at **church History**

from the **time** of the **Apostles** to **Today**

These 7 letters – **Speak** to the **General Condition** of the **church** –
in 7 distinct - historical time periods of the church

But - **MOST IMPORTANTLY**

they are **written** to you & me **PERSONALLY**

So - **Lets Pray** we would have **EARS** to **HEAR** what the **Spirit says**

We're in our FOURTH Church today – THYATIRA

So – in light of our title – Contaminated Relationship

Let's review the churches so far – to see the progression

Ephesus - HATED any Potential Compromise

Smyrna - GREW STRONG under Physical Persecution

Pergamum - Began to COMPROMISE, & eventually Married the World

Thyatira - that Compromise, becomes full-scale CONTAMINATION

& that progression is often similar in OUR LIVES

1st we REJECT any Potential Compromise

Then We FLIRT with - & ultimately Marry - Compromise

Then that Compromise CONTAMINATES

our Relationship with Jesus Christ

& so – AS we Begin the Letter – Remember

Jesus uses a Description of himself in each of the Letters

that Directly RELATES to his message for that particular church

Revelation 2:18 (NLT)

18 "Write this letter to the angel of the church in Thyatira. This is the message from the Son of God, whose eyes are like flames of fire, whose feet are like polished bronze:

The Omniscient Son of God -
has Eyes are like Flames of Fire

That SEE Right into to the HEART of the church
AND – Right into OUR Hearts

& He is going to say to this Church - - I KNOW Your Heart

& then - what should be even MORE concerning
Jesus says He's coming with feet like polished bronze

Which is a clear representation
of Jesus coming prepared for Judgment

But - To every church where it's at all possible - Jesus begins
with some type of Encouragement

Revelation 2:19 (NLT)

19 "I know all the things you do (I know your works). I have seen your love, your faith, your service, and your patient endurance. And I can see your constant improvement in all these things.

That's some Good Encouragement – Right?

This was a Church of Good Community Service

they were AT WORK for the good of those around them

AND - They Performed their service of Meeting Physical Needs
with Love & Faith & Endurance

BUT - does **Jesus want JUST Our ACTIONS?**

Or does Jesus want - **OUR HEART** ??

Does Jesus want you to **JUST HELP** those around you
with their physical or material needs?

Or **does Jesus** want **YOUR HELPING** - to be a **conduit**

'**Thru Which**' those **people** can **See Jesus**
& **receive Eternal Life** Thru **FAITH** in Him?

Jesus wants **OUR HEART** – AND – **THEIR HEART**

Because **Jesus wants** a **REAL RELATIONSHIP**
of **FAITH & TRUST** with us

BECAUSE Jesus knows - the **Trials** of **this life** are **Temporary**
But **ETERNITY** - is **FOREVER**

So – **the church** in **Thyatira** was **Doing** “**Good Deeds**”
& **they** were **doing** them **well**

BUT – the **Son of God** – who has ***eyes like flames of fire***

KNEW – **that** their **RELATIONSHIP** with Him
was **Being CONTAMINATED**

& so - **in V.20** - we have that “**Startling Transition Word**” **BUT**

Revelation 2:20 (NLT)

20 “But I have this complaint against you. You are permitting that woman—that Jezebel who calls herself a prophet—to lead my servants astray. She teaches them to commit sexual sin and to eat food offered to idols.

**Jesus says - You have LOVE
& You have GOOD SERVICE**

But your Relationship with me is being CONTAMINATED

Guys – Our God is a PERSONAL GOD

& the Bible is very clear – when we put our
full Faith & Trust in Jesus as our Savior & our Lord

He comes to LIVE inside of us!! - He GIVES US His Very Life!!

From Genesis to Revelation – the Bible makes it clear
that our God is a “Personal Relationship” God

& when we “Take In”
anything the POLLUTES that Pure Relationship

then we have a Contaminated Relationship

& the enemy of our souls will do anything & everything he can –
to Contaminate our Pure Relationship with Jesus Christ

& THAT is what Jesus is talking about in V.20

Jezebel – was a REAL PERSON

But **her name** became **Synonymous** with **people** – or **systems**
that **Polluted** and **Contaminated** the **people of God**

& **LED** them **AWAY** from their **Relationship with God**

Ahab (one of **Israel's** most **wicked Kings**) - **married Jezebel**

& **Jezebel's Father** was a **Priest** of **Ashtaroth** -
Who was the Primary **Goddess of Fertility**

Worship always **included** something **SEXUAL**
& **so** the **Worship services** were **VERY WELL Attended**

& **Jezebel's goal** in the **Nation** of **Israel** - was to **bring** the
Pagan worship of Both **Ashtaroth** & **BAAL** (male counter-part)

INTO the **lives** of the **people of God**

& so **she got** the **King of Israel** to build **temples**
to the **SEX goddess** - & **he put her** in **charge** of it **all**

& **she got** the **king** to **financially** support **800 Prophets**
of **Ashtaroth** & **BAAL**

& Eventually Jezebel - had a Strangle-Hold on the people of God

By Seducing God's People into IDOLATRY & SIN

**Jezebel CONTAMINATED the People's Relationship with God –
by INSERTING a Polluting Substance – into that relationship**

**& now - in Thyatira - the Enemy is Successfully Using
"The Jezebel Approach" again**

**The 1st Jezebel Completely Contaminated
the People's Relationship with God**

**& the Church in Thyatira – was again Allowing "a Jezebel"
to CONTAMINATE their Relationship with God**

& TODAY – The exact same thing – is STILL happening

**& Jesus has some of His strongest words of Judgment for
the church that is ALLOWING this to Happen**

Revelation 2:21–22 (NLT)

21 I gave her time to repent, but she does not want to turn away from her immorality.

22 "Therefore, I will throw her on a bed of suffering, and those who commit adultery with her will suffer greatly unless they repent and turn away from her evil deeds.

Seeing Jezebel as

a "System of Contamination" in the church

Makes it easy to see

that Jesus is talking about Spiritual Adultery

& Jesus will ALWAYS give us time to Repent
from our Spiritual Adultery

The problem is - We never know when our Time - IS UP

& here in V.22 – is our 1st Reference to The Great Tribulation

As Jesus says - Those in the Church who Embrace the
Contamination of Jezebel - & DO NOT Repent of it

Will be Thrown on a bed of suffering - & will Suffer Greatly
WITH The “Spiritual Adultery System” of Jezebel

THAT is some Serious Judgment - & Jesus isn't finished

Revelation 2:23 (NLT)

23 I will strike her children dead. Then all the churches will know that I am the one who searches out the thoughts and intentions (the heart) of every person. And I will give to each of you whatever you deserve.

The “Children of Jezebel” is a Reference

to those who ADHERE TO (Follow) this Contaminated Teaching
of the System of Jezebel – within the Church

JESUS wants our HEARTS –In genuine BELIEF & FAITH

& He doesn't want ANYTHING to CONTAMINATE
our Relationship with Him

So – Let's Address the Prophetic Perspective
of the church of Thyatira

The church of Thyatira Represents

the Period of Church History
in the Middle Ages - from the 500's to the 1500's

Altho this 1,000 years is divided up
into 3 time periods - by historians

there was ONLY ONE church

& that church had a Strangle Hold
on the Religious World for that entire 1,000 Years

In our Last Ltr (last Week) Constantine
Married the Church to the ROMAN GOV'T (in the 300's)

But - the Marriage of the Church & the State –
that Constantine started in the Previous time period

Grew Completely Out of Control
in the time represented by Thyatira

During this 1000 dark years – the Church had
absolute CONTROL – over every area of life

& the church ABSOLUTELY ABUSED that control

JUST on the Spiritual Side

let me **list 10 things** that were **INSERTED into the church**

& **made** to be **Absolute Religious Requirements** - **during** this time

& **EACH ONE** of these **10 things** – **contributed** to the **CONTAMINATION** of the **People's Relationship** with **God**

1. **Justification by works**—Not by grace through faith;
2. **Baptismal regeneration**—That a person is saved by baptism;
3. **Worship of & Praying to Saints** & other **Idols**.
4. **Celibacy**—Forbidding priests to marry (elevating the priesthood)
5. **Confessionalism**—Where sins are confessed to a priest who has the power to “absolve” you of those sins
6. **Purgatory**—A place where your holiness is completed before you can go to heaven
8. **Indulgences**—Where **through** the **giving** of **money** to the church, a person's time in purgatory could be reduced
9. **Penance**—**Involving** the **torment** of **one's body** in order to **reduce time** in **purgatory**.
7. **Transubstantiation**—The bread and cup becoming the actual body & blood – creating a “continual sacrifice”
10. **Mariolatry**—The **worship** of **Mary**, and **making** her **Deity** – as the **Mother Of God** - & The **Queen of Heaven**.

NONE of **these 10 things** are in the **Bible**

& ALL 10 of these things **TOOK CONTROL** of the **church**
in the **MIDDLE AGES**

& they are **referred to** as the “**Sin of Jezebel**” **because** they
brought Spiritual Adultery & Idolatry into the **church**

Which is EXACTLY what the original Jezebel did to Israel

BUT – There IS Some Good News

it was **NOT EVERY PERSON** in the **church** of **Thyatira**

Who were **Contaminating** their **Relationship** with **Jesus**
By embracing the **Religious System** of **Jezebel**

HERE is what **Jesus says** to the **FAITHFUL REMNANT**
in **Thyatira** – **AND** in the **church today**

Revelation 2:24–25 (NLT)

***24 “But I also have a message for the rest of you in Thyatira who have not followed this false teaching (‘deeper truths,’ as they call them—depths of Satan, actually). I will ask nothing more of you
25 except that you hold tightly to what you have until I come.***

THAT is **GOOD NEWS** from **Jesus Christ** !!

He **makes** it **clear** – this **Religious System**
of **Spiritual Adultery & Idolatry** - is **Really BAD News**

But Jesus says, “*Just HOLD ON to what you have*”
“*HOLD ON to your Genuine Relationship with me*”

Just Stay away from that false teaching - & LOVE ME

HOLD ON to what you Have - until I COME

in THYATIRA – there WAS a Faithful Remnant
that was HOLDING FAST to Jesus Christ ALONE

& NO MATTER What Happens - May YOU & I be KNOWN
as the FAITHFUL REMNANT - Holding Fast to Christ ALONE

& now comes the Reward to those who HOLD FAST to Christ

Revelation 2:26 (NLT)

26 To all who are victorious, who obey me to the very end, To them I will give authority over all the nations.

This is most likely a ref to us Ruling & Reigning
WITH Jesus on the Earth - during the Millennium

But notice - there is a Connection between
HOW we handle things HERE - & What we'll be Given THERE

Say NO to the World & YES to Christ - HERE
& you will RULE with Christ - THERE

Revelation 2:27-28 (NLT)

27 They (the ones who are victorious) **will rule** (shepherd) **the nations with an iron rod** (scepter) **and smash them like clay pots.**

28 They will have the same authority I received from my Father, and I will also give them the morning star!

This an incredible statement

But **we're talking** about a **time** in the **Millennium**

when we will **be ruling** with **Jesus** in **GLORIFIED BODIES**

Which means we will **be** ruling **In HIS Righteousness**

NOT IN OUR SIN NATURE

& **finally** – in **V:28** – **Jesus** says in **V.28** –

I will also give them the morning star!

Guys - **Jesus Christ HIMSELF** – **IS the Morning Star**

There will **NEVER - EVER** Be - a **GREATER REWARD**

than **Jesus** Christ **HIMSELF**

HE is the **Hidden Manna** of the **Abundant Life**

& **He, Himself**, is our **Greatest Reward** - for all **eternity**

& So - Jesus closes this letter like he does ALL Seven

Revelation 2:29 (NLT)

29 “Anyone with ears to hear must listen to the Spirit and understand what he is saying to the churches.

**IF you have a Real Relationship
of Belief & Faith & Trust in Jesus Christ Alone**

**DON'T allow your life with Jesus
to be CONTAMINATED**

by things that Pollute or Poison your relationship with him

Don't allow the Spiritual Adultery & Idolatry of JEZEBEL

**TRICK you into Compromising
your Relationship of FAITH IN - & LOVE FOR - Jesus**

& if you have embraced a Religious System
that contaminates your Pure Relationship with Jesus

or KEEPS you FROM HAVING that Relationship

TURN from Putting Your FAITH in a Religious System

& Put your Full Faith & Trust in Jesus – Personally
Making him your SAVIOR & your LORD

& you will **Freely Receive** - **Abundant** and **Eternal Life**
In a **Real Relationship** – with **Jesus Christ Alone**

He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches

Let's Pray