

Intolerant Love

Set up: Balaam (Nu 22-25)/Nicolaitans

Balaam, Balak/Moab, 2nd Prophecy ~ blessed because no iniquity

Advice, Phinehas/Priesthood (Zeal) ~ Levites & golden calf

Balaam (Hebrew) = “destroyer of the people”

Nicolaitans (Greek) = “conqueror of the people”

Destroyed through Licentiousness (license, false grace)

Revelation Letters (Rev 2) – learn how Jesus thinks

Ephesus:

+ won't tolerate evil, hate deeds of Nicolaitans (God also hates – because it destroys)

- left first love, do the first works (not just feelings)

Pergamos:

+ won't deny Jesus in persecution

- tolerate doctrine of Balaam/Nicolaitans

Thyatira:

+ works (last more than first), love, service

- tolerate Jezebel (false prophecy, sexual immorality)

Holiness vs. Love – Both!

(Phl 1:9-11) ⁹And this I pray, that your love may abound still more and more in knowledge and all discernment, ¹⁰that you may approve the things that are excellent, that you may be sincere and without offense till the day of Christ, ¹¹being filled with the fruits of righteousness which are by Jesus Christ, to the glory and praise of God.

Jesus Started with Approval, Ended with Hope (letters)

Requires Maturity and Skill

Church cannot Approve what isn't Excellent.

(Jn 13:34) ³⁴“A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another; as I have loved you, that you also love one another.

Loving like Him Require His Spirit

Unusual Reward for Thyatira (all others heavenly)

(Rev 2:26-27) ²⁶“And he who overcomes, and keeps My works until the end, to him I will give power over the nations. ²⁷“He shall rule them with a rod of iron; They shall be dashed to pieces like the potter's vessels’, as I also have received from My Father;

Holiness & Love Prerequisites to Rule PSALM 2

(Rev 19:15) He Himself will rule them (nations) with a rod of iron.

(Rev 5:10) ¹⁰And have made us kings and priests to our God; And we shall reign on the earth.”

We are being trained to Rule His way

(Ps 89:14) ¹⁴Righteousness and justice are the foundation of Your throne; Mercy and truth go before Your face. (Chiastic –emphasis, correlation)

His Government founded on Holiness and Love (works of service)

(Mt 20:25-26) ²⁵But Jesus called them to Himself and said, “You know that the rulers of the Gentiles lord it over them, and those who are great exercise authority over them.

²⁶“Yet it shall not be so among you; but whoever desires to become great among you, let him be your servant.

If we want to Rule with Him, we must first learn to Rule Ourselves.

(Ro 12:2) ²And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God.

Proof = being an example, not just a voice

Judge:

Krino – judge, determination (guilt/innocence)
Anakrino – examine, appraise

Diakrino – distinguish, discern
Katakriino - condemn

(1Co 11:31-32) ³¹For if we would judge (discern) ourselves, we would not be judged. ³²But when we are judged, we are chastened (corrected as a child) by the Lord, that we may not be condemned with the world.

Justice is a function of Rule. We can't call for Justice and exempt ourselves.

(1Pe 4:17) ¹⁷For the time has come for judgment to begin at the house of God; and if it begins with us first, what will be the end of those who do not obey the gospel of God?

The Just One begins with those most responsible. (Jam 3:1)

(Mt 7:1-6) ¹⁴“Judge not, that you be not judged. ²⁴“For with what judgment you judge, you will be judged; and with the measure you use, it will be measured back to you. ³⁴“And why do you look at the speck in your brother's eye, but do not consider the plank in your own eye? ⁴⁴“Or how can you say to your brother, ‘Let me remove the speck from your eye’; and look, a plank is in your own eye? ⁵⁴“Hypocrite! First remove the plank from your own eye, and then you will see clearly to remove the speck from your brother's eye. ⁶⁴“Do not give what is holy to the dogs; nor cast your pearls before swine, lest they trample them under their feet, and turn and tear you in pieces.

Judgement not forbidden, just dangerous. (Jam 2:13) Judge yourself first.

Motive more about helping than making determination.

Consider your audience.

(1Co 2:6, 14-15) ⁶However, we speak wisdom among those who are mature,...¹⁴But the natural man does not receive the things of the Spirit of God, for they are foolishness to him; nor can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned. ¹⁵But he who is spiritual judges (appraises) all things, yet he himself is rightly judged (appraised) by no one.

Spiritual = appraise everything (doctrine), not everyone.

(Ro 14:4) ⁴Who are you to judge another's servant? To his own master he stands or falls. Indeed, he will be made to stand, for God is able to make him stand.

(Jas 4:11-12) ¹¹Do not speak evil of one another, brethren. He who speaks evil of a brother and judges his brother, speaks evil of the law and judges the law. But if you judge the law, you are not a doer of the law but a judge. ¹²There is one Lawgiver, who is able to save and to destroy. Who are you to judge another?

Remember those “who are not spiritual” don't know better. Lead with Love!

(Mt 9:36) ³⁶But when He saw the multitudes, He was moved with compassion for them, because they were weary and scattered, like sheep having no shepherd.

(2Co 10:3-6) ³For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war according to the flesh. ⁴For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal but mighty in God for pulling down strongholds, ⁵casting down arguments and every high thing that exalts itself against the knowledge of God, bringing every thought into captivity to the obedience of Christ, ⁶and being ready to punish all disobedience when your obedience is fulfilled.

We aren't ready to rule until we've become obedient.

Spiritual = Compassionate because we've Experienced the Battle.

Not Perfection; Perfect Intentions. (Phil 3:13-14)

(Mt 5:43-48) ⁴³“You have heard that it was said, ‘You shall love your neighbor and hate your enemy.’ ⁴⁴“But I say to you, love your enemies, bless those who curse you, do good to those who hate you, and pray for those who spitefully use you and persecute you, ⁴⁵“that you may be sons of your Father in heaven; for He makes His sun rise on the evil and on the good, and sends rain on the just and on the unjust. ⁴⁶“For if you love those who love you, what reward have you? Do not even the tax collectors do the same? ⁴⁷“And if you greet your brethren only, what do you do more than others? Do not even the tax collectors do so? ⁴⁸“Therefore you shall be perfect, just as your Father in heaven is perfect. (Context Love)

Perfect Intentions = press in when we fall short

Tolerance = lower the bar when we fall short

Tolerance Destroys/Conquers the people. It is not love!

Even when God looks harsh, His motive is always love.

(Rev 11:18) ¹⁸The nations were angry, and Your wrath has come, and the time of the dead, that they should be judged, and that You should reward Your servants the prophets and the saints, and those who fear Your name, small and great, and should destroy those who destroy the earth.”