

The Church of Pergamos



Read *The 7 Church Harvest – Part 3* (CBCG, 2000).

Read *Revelations 2:12-17*. Below, list the strengths & weaknesses of the Church of Pergamos according to scripture.

Strengths: _____

Weaknesses:



Pergamos

Based on scripture, Pergamos was known for several negative things:

1. Teachings of _____
2. Deeds of the _____
3. An established hierarchy within the church



Teachings of Balaam

Teachings of Balaam: bring everyone together for the same worship even though they worshipped different gods

Why was this wrong in God's eyes?

How is this happening again today?

This is called e _ _ _ m _ _ _ _ m.

Deeds of the Nicolaitans: changed the nature of the worship of God & the importance of the 10 commandments; instituted a hierarchy

Why was this wrong in God's eyes?

**This eventually became the basis for today's _____
& _____ religions.**

Can this happen in the church today? _____

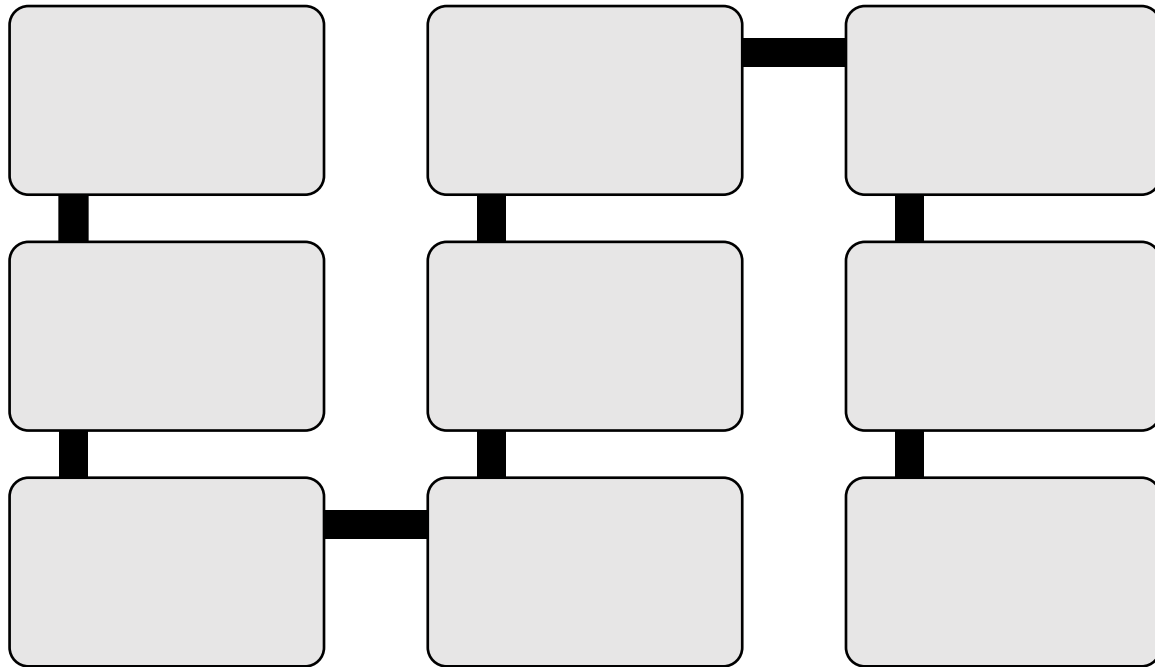
What is wrong with establishing a hierarchy in the church?

"Minister" means "s _ _ _ v _ _ _ _ of the people".



Results of Keeping One Foot in the World

Fill in the progression described in the passage showing what happens when a believer fails to commit 100% to doing things God's way.



Comfort of the World
Spiritual Laziness



Devotion to God
Spiritual Zeal

Where are you on this continuum today?

The fear of God is important because it keeps us from

Our responsive acts toward God determine which direction we are moving: *toward* Him or *away* from Him (circle one)

Complete the T-chart by filling in acts we do that result in closeness to God or slipping away. Place a star next to things those in Pergamos were doing that drew them away from God.

Fellowship with God	Slipping Away from God



True or False?

1. God is a jealous God. _____
2. The church of Pergamos was following Balaam. _____
3. God is lenient when He knows the things of this world can get in the way. _____
4. Developing a close personal relationship with God helps to keep you from worshipping other things or people. _____
5. Angels rule over us. _____
6. We should compare ourselves with those in the world. _____



Eucharist

What is the eucharist?

God views taking the eucharist as spiritual _____.
Why?

What are 2 religions that do this?

Why do we commemorate the death of Christ only once a year?

On which Holy Day do we do this? _____



True or False?

1. The messenger to Pergamos was an angel of God. _____
2. The true Christians in Pergamos left the church. _____
3. A hierarchy is a sign of a Church of God. _____
4. It is ok to worship with Catholics because God knows our hearts.

5. It is possible to fool God temporarily. _____
6. Committing fornication is both physical & spiritual. _____
7. Men can call people to God. _____
8. Ministers are meant to be between the people and God. _____
9. Mixing pagan & Christian practices pleases God. _____
10. Gnostic religions essentially worship man. _____



Gnosticism

What is the focus of Gnosticism?

Why is Gnosticism harmful to God's true church?



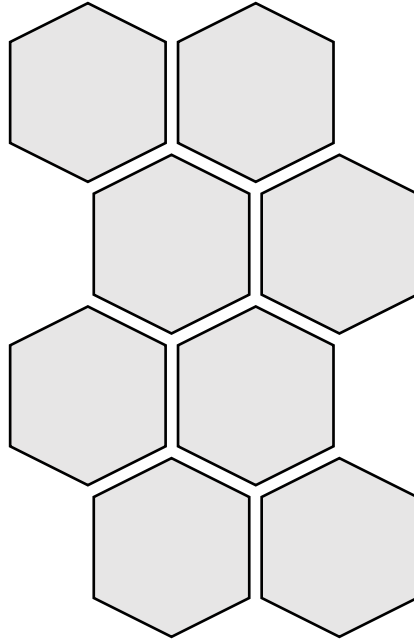
Narrow & Broad Paths

In Matthew 7, it talks about MANY taking the broad path & FEW taking the narrow path. All these people call themselves "Christians". Draw a narrow path & a broad path below. Place the religions discussed in this passage on the correct path.



Learning from Pergamos

Place one lesson we can learn from Pergamos in each shape below.



Why does God let the wicked prosper?

LOVE THE LORD
WITH ALL
OF
YOUR GOD WITH ALL
your HEART and ALL
WITH OF
SOUL and WITH all OF YOUR
MIND and With all OF
YOUR STRENGTH
MARK 12:30