

Common Ground Café

Sermon Discussion Guide

Sunday, October 27, 2019



It's Time to Have the
“Define the Relationship” Talk

Revelation 2:12-17

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Get to Know You

What makes DTR (Defining the Relationship) talks so awkward?
Anyone have a funny DTR story or experience?

Study the Book

Read Revelation 2:12-17

At first you might wonder if this letter with all its strange and unfamiliar names has anything at all to say to you. Here's why Jesus's letter to the church in Pergamum matters. When Jesus called us to belong to him, he called us into *a people* who belong to him. And we're to pray for each other, hold each other accountable, encourage each other, and even reprimand each other when necessary, so that *together* we come to him as the bride prepared for her bridegroom.

Why were the Roman shrines an important part of the culture at the time of the letter? Who was Antipas?

What is being referenced about the city when the letter refers to Pergamum as where Satan lives and has placed his throne?

What might make you reluctant to define the relationship Christians should have with Christ:

An inadequate view of the purpose of the church.

Read Galatians 6:1 and James 5:19-20

What aspect of being a family do these verses communicate?

Poor training.

How can the church train members in defining what a relationship with Christ looks like? What areas could be covered? (Have someone record answers. Take a picture of the notes and email them to mike@hillcrest.church.)

Fear of labels.

How can labelling aspects of the Christian faith be helpful? How might it be harmful?

Poor examples.

Sometimes we just don't know about individuals or resources that are engaging the culture in a God-honoring fashion. What are some examples that you have seen?

A misunderstanding of how to relate to the nonbelieving culture.

What are some ways we can make sure that we are appropriately adapting rather than inappropriately assimilating as it relates to our culture?

What does Jesus say to those who are reluctant to define the relationship Christians should have with Christ?

Repent therefore! (Verse 16)

Who was Jesus talking to in verse sixteen? What was he asking them to repent from?

What does manna, the white stone, and the new name symbolize?

Group Application Discussion

What are some ways that Christians can graciously hold fellow believers accountable? What are key aspects of those encounters that honor Christ?

Personal Reflection and Application

How might you need to be involved in holding fellow believers accountable to God's Word? Pray that God would give you an attitude of grace and compassion.