

Growing Deeper *Revelation*

Week Four: *Fighting Fence Sitting* *Revelation 3:14-22*

Spend FIFTEEN – Day One

1. As we dig deeper into what it means to fight fence sitting, read Revelation 3:14-22. What are your initial thoughts and reactions?
2. Do you find it tempting to give your allegiance to good, often healthy, but earthly things that offer prosperity, protection, and security? For example, do you find it easier to give your allegiance to things like family, government, or an economic system that offer physical, tangible benefits? Why or why not?
3. Spend some time thinking about the earthly things to which you find it easy to give your allegiance or loyalty. Jot down any that come to mind.
4. What happens when that loyalty ends up conflicting with your loyalty to Jesus? Even though we might try to keep a foot in each camp, as group divisions widen, we must ultimately decide which one we will put our trust behind.
5. Look at Revelation 3:14-16 again. What do these verses have to say about fence sitting?
6. If we are going to honestly pursue fighting fence sitting, a great place to start is by acknowledging our inability to do this on our own. End your FIFTEEN by confessing your inability to stay aligned with God. Confess how easy it is to give more time and energy to your other allegiances instead of God.

Spend FIFTEEN – Day Two

7. To begin your FIFTEEN for today, read Revelation 3:14-22 again. Did anything new stick out to you this time?
8. Think of some allegiances you have to people or things other than God. Most of us have at least a few, if not more. What is it about these allegiances that pull you to them?
9. If you're being honest with yourself, when you're busy, tired, or stressed, to which allegiances do you typically turn?
10. Do you think it's so easy to trust in earthly things because they are physical and tangible, you can clearly grasp them or understand them? Why or why not?
11. When people taste lukewarm water, they often want to spit it out of their mouths. This is exactly how Jesus felt about

the church in Laodicea. Unless they changed, he wanted to spit them out of his mouth. How would you feel if Jesus described you this way?

12. To finish your FIFTEEN for today, ask God to forgive you for the times when, in fatigue or stress, you turn to allegiances other than God. Ask him to strengthen and empower you according to his will and more like he desires.

Spend FIFTEEN – Day Three

13. To begin your FIFTEEN for today, read Revelation 3:14-22 again, but focus on verses 17-18. What do these verses say to you?

14. The church in Laodicea was proud. They knew how wealthy they were, more so than almost any other church. They claimed to need nothing, thinking they already had everything. Spiritually speaking, they were “wretched, pitiful, poor, blind and naked.” They were unable to provide for their own spiritual needs. How were they like or unlike people today?

15. Verse 17 says, “But you do not realize that you are wretched, pitiful, poor, blind and naked.” How does that make you feel? Do you ever identify with those words or do they make you angry?

16. Spiritually speaking, we are *all* wretched, pitiful, poor, blind, and naked. Spend a few minutes thinking and praying about how much you really do need God. Jot down any thoughts or ideas that come to you.

17. Thankfully, God doesn’t leave us that way. He has a solution! Verse 18 says, “I counsel you to buy from me gold refined in the fire, so you can become rich; and white clothes to wear, so you can cover your shameful nakedness; and salve to put on your eyes, so you can see.” Finish your FIFTEEN for today by praising God that he doesn’t leave you wretched, pitiful, poor, blind, and naked. Find one of your favorite worship songs and spend a few moments praising him for all he has done.

Spend FIFTEEN – Day Four

18. After yesterday’s FIFTEEN, did you spend any more time thinking about our wretched, pitiful state? If so, what are your thoughts and feelings?

19. Does realizing how much you need God make his love and grace even more meaningful? Why?

20. Read Revelation 3:18 again. How do we go about being transformed? Whose work is it?

21. Would it be possible for us to transform or change ourselves? Could we do it on our own? Why or why not?

22. Think about a time when you were unable to fix something for yourself. Maybe a friend or family member had to help you, or maybe it took God resolving it for you, but how did it get resolved? How did it make you feel?
23. To finish your FIFTEEN for today, thank and praise God for his love, grace, and mercy. Thank him for all he does, even though we are undeserving. Thank him for his reckless love!

Spend FIFTEEN – Day Five

24. To begin your final FIFTEEN of the week, read Revelation 3:14-22 once more, focusing on verse 19.
25. How does verse 19 make you feel? Is it an encouragement? Do you typically think of God's rebuke and discipline as love?
26. God calls us to repent, but he's also ready to welcome us with open arms, similar to the father in the story of the prodigal son. Can you think of any other biblical examples of this?
27. Jesus stands at the door of our hearts and knocks. His love is unparalleled, even reckless! Is it possible to really comprehend this? Why or why not?
28. Christ demonstrates his commitment to his people by inviting us to join him in fellowship at his table. Even though we often live lukewarm and full of pride, Christ longs for us to return to his fold. How should this knowledge affect your attitude toward others who are just the same as you?
29. Spend the rest of your FIFTEEN thinking about how crazy God's love really is. We stray from him; we desire other things; we sometimes even reject him. But he still pursues us and wants to be with us! Thank God that he loves each and every one of us. Thank him for his crazy, extreme, immeasurable love!