

SEVEN: A LOOK AT THE CHURCH THEN AND NOW...

Icebreaker: Who is the most discerning person you know? Why?

1. What makes a person discerning?
2. Do you think a person can be spiritually mature and not be discerning? Why or why not?
3. Read 1 Kings 3:6-9; what did King Solomon ask for?
 - a. Read Hebrews 5:11-14: How are the mature described? Based on these two passages, what should people who are discerning be able to do?
 - b. Try to come up with a Biblical definition of discernment based on these two passages.
4. Read Revelation 2:18-29 and answer the following questions:
 - a. What picture of Jesus do we get from verse 18? What do you think what meant by these two descriptions?
 - b. What things was the church commended for?
 - c. What did Jesus have against them? Why was this a big deal?
5. This passage gives us a glimpse that there are three things that can often times oppose our abilities to discern right from wrong. Look at these three things and discuss how they can affect discernment.
 - a. Our rebellious nature
 - b. Cultural Influence
 - c. Forces of Evil
6. Why did God bring judgment upon Jezebel and her followers?
7. What is promised to those who overcome?
8. How does this make you feel?

Close in Prayer

Challenge: Continue reading through Revelation 1-3 and specifically think about the church of Sardis.