

# Life Application Notes

Week beginning 16<sup>th</sup> Feb (West End) 23<sup>rd</sup> Feb (Lordshill/Central).

## **Culture Revealed.** *What Matters to Jesus in the Local Church?*

Chris Kilby. Letter 4 (THYATIRA) - Revelation 2 'Sincere Service or Tainted Tolerance'

### Opening Up.

- In this passage Jesus addresses the issue of 'tolerance' in the church

*Group discussion - What things have you been intolerant about? - What has wound you up?!*

### Digging In

*In Revelation we see John's vision of a glorified Christ, who then dictates to John letters to seven churches. This fourth letter is written to the church in Thyatira.*

### **Read Revelation 2:12-17**

Remind one another what Thyatira was like as a city.

*(Clues for leader - South of Istanbul, 50 miles inland from the coast, busy with trades and merchants (leather, bronze, cloth etc. Lots of workers 'guilds')*

### **Sincere Service** *(All hands on deck!)*

- What things did Jesus commend the church in Thyatira for? (Verse 19)
- Where do you experience these in the culture and activity of Life Church (try and think of one or two examples for each thing that Jesus commended)
- Ask each person 'Which of these things would you most like to grow in?'

In the last 5 years, we have seen this growth among Commission churches:

- Over 1500 baptisms
- We have grown to 170 churches/sites
- Our global involvement has grown from 5 nations, to 9 (10 by April)

*Why not take a moment to thank God for his fruitfulness amongst us, and pray for the next 5 years? If you feel God laying any particular people, places, cities or nations on your heart, please let us know!*

### **Tainted Tolerance**

How do we get the right balance between tolerating the culture of the world, but remaining set apart? What things help us to love people, but put Jesus first? In what areas might we come into conflict with the culture? - **DISCUSS!!**

### Rounding Off

Jesus told the believers to '*hold on to what you have until I come*' 2:25. Please take some time to pray for people who might be struggling to 'hold on' at the moment.