



## Discussion Guide for “Thyatira: The Divided Church”

### *Under Pressure Week 3*

Part of the pain of growing older is learning the world isn't as black and white as we thought it was. We struggle to navigate a life - and a faith - that is messier than we wish it were. The Church in Thyatira faced similar problems - with different teachers advocating different solutions to their tension. They needed a Jesus with burning eyes and bronze feet (what?!). And so do we.

#### **Scriptures for Further Reading**

[Revelation 1:12-18](#)

[Revelation 2:18-29](#)

[Romans 14](#)

[James 1:16-20](#)

#### **Passage for Sacred Reading:**

Sacred Reading is a way of reading Scripture with an eye toward transformation, not just information. You can find a [step-by-step guide here](#). The passage for this week's sacred reading is [Romans 14](#).

#### **Questions for Discussion**

1. What's an issue that you used to think was black & white but now you see as more complicated? What changed?
2. Is there an issue of theology, faith or Christian practice that has gotten more complicated as you've gotten older?
3. What issues were facing the church in Thyatira? How were the teachers there making the issue more complicated, not less?
4. How did Jesus introduce himself to the Thyatiran church? What did those images communicate to their particular struggles?
5. What does it look like to show grace and trust God to judge hearts?