



UNVANQUISHABLE

Overcoming as Men of Faith

Unvanquishable Character

Revelation 2:12-17

Men's Breakfast

Sermon given on May 16, 2026



Pastor Rick Lancaster

Unvanquishable Character

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Opening Comments

- Today we continue the series: **UNVANQUISHABLE: Overcoming as Men of Faith**

- This series is for men!
- Let's open with a word of prayer. **Pray.**
- Our definition for unvanquishable is.

Unvanquishable means unable to be defeated, conquered, or overcome, describing something with an invincible, unbeatable, or unconquerable quality, like a strong spirit or an unstoppable army. It's an adjective used for people, forces, or concepts that are incredibly resilient and cannot be subdued.

- It is my belief that every man can be unvanquishable.
- Turn to **Ephesians 6.**
- This series is based on the letters Jesus dictated to the Apostle John to seven churches in Asia Minor.
- These letters told the churches and the believers in those churches what they needed to do in preparation for Christ's Second Coming.
- All seven letters ended with a promise to those who overcome whatever circumstance Jesus described in the letter.
- Whatever circumstance we find ourselves in, Jesus says there is a way to be unvanquishable.
- Everyone comes to Jesus with different struggles, concerns, cares, and frustrations.
- We bring Him our hurts, wounds, and brokenness.
- God knows about all those things and wants us to bring them to Him.

1 Peter 5:6-7

⁶Therefore humble yourselves under the mighty hand of God, that He may exalt you in due time, ⁷casting all your care upon Him, for He cares for you.

- A man of God is called to overcome, which he does through faith and obedience.
- The image we are using for this series shows a single warrior standing alone against a vast army.
- If he is standing in faith and obedience, he is not alone.
- **Ephesians 6:10-18a**

- Our faith is the armor that protects us.
- We have within us the Holy Spirit who empowers us to overcome.
- With us are our fellow warriors who stand with us in our battles, and we stand with in theirs.
- Behind us are those we called to lead and protect; they need us to be overcomers, to be unvanquishable.
- Turn to **Revelation 2**.
- Through faith and obedience there is no foe that cannot be overcome.
- With the empowering of the Holy Spirit, there is not circumstance that can defeat a man of God.
- But saying that doesn't make it true in the reality of our everyday lives.
- Many men, including men who are doing their best to walk in faith and obedience are being defeated by the circumstances of their life.
- We can't do what we don't know or understand.
- This series is about understanding how to overcome and be unvanquishable.
- This morning, we will look at the third of seven letters in Revelation 2 and 3.
- **Revelation 2:12**
- Jesus identifies Himself as He who has the sharp two-edged sword.
- We also see that in one of the messianic Scriptures in the Old Testament. **Isaiah 49:2**
²**And He has made My mouth like a sharp sword; in the shadow of His hand He has hidden Me, and made Me a polished shaft; in His quiver He has hidden Me."**
- In John 1, Jesus is identified as the Word.
- In Christ is the language and vocabulary of God.
- And the Word, or two-edged sword, is powerful. **Hebrews 4:12**
¹²**For the word of God is living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and is a discernor of the thoughts and intents of the heart.**
- The sword of the Word of God serves two purposes.
- First, it serves to separate God's people from the world.
- God's Word teaches us how to live a life separated from the world being in the world.
- That is what it means to be holy – literally, to be set apart.

- We are in the world but not a part of it.
- In describing Jesus' Second Coming in **Revelation 19:15**.
¹⁵ **Now out of His mouth goes a sharp sword, that with it He should strike the nations. And He Himself will rule them with a rod of iron. He Himself treads the winepress of the fierceness and wrath of Almighty God.**
- So, the sword is also seen in judgment.
- And that is the context here in our verse.
- As Jesus addresses this church, He does so as the One who has the sword of judgment.
- He has the right, authority, and power to determine what is right and what is wrong, and to punish those who are wrong and reward those who are right.
- It was important for Jesus to identify Himself this way because of the environment the believers in Pergamos were trying to be faithful in.
- **Revelation 2:13**
- Pergamos was a city that prided itself in its inclusive attitude about pagan idol worship.
- You could worship any false god you wanted to.
- Very large and impressive temples were built for gods of several different cultures.
- Worshipping anything other than the One True God is worshipping Satan, even if you don't believe in Satan.
- One of the things that made life hard for believers in Pergamos was the fact that most of the trade guilds had one of these false gods as their prescribed deity.
- To be a member of the guild, you were expected to participate in the religious ceremonies of the false god.
- It was a temptation to compromise so that you could work.
- **Revelation 2:14**
- The doctrine of Balaam is if you can't curse them, corrupt them.
- There were people in the church in Pergamos that were engaging in the pagan feasts of the various temples of the city.
- These feasts involved eating the animals that were sacrificed to the false gods.
- This is the go along to get along philosophy.

- Compromises like this are almost always gradual.
- It is a glacier moving down toward the ocean.
- A glacier is the result of thousands of relatively small layers of snow building up over a long period of time.
- Eventually, the weight of the snow forces the glacier to start moving down the mountain.
- Its movements are almost imperceptible, but underneath the ice, the ground is being crushed and ground to nothing.
- Even small amounts of compromise must be identified and rooted out.
- As men of God, we cannot compromise with this world.
- God calls us to be holy. **1 Peter 1:15-16**
- ¹⁵ ...but as He who called you is holy, you also be holy in all your conduct,
- ¹⁶ because it is written, “Be holy, for I am holy.”
- When Peter says be holy in all your conduct, how much of your conduct is he referring to? All of it!
- To be holy is to be set apart for God’s use.
- We are to be set apart from the world and set apart to God and His will.
- We are in the world but not of this world.
- That is hard because the world is set up to move you away from God.
- It will tempt you to compromise in some small way, but just like that glacier, once it starts moving down the mountain, it is very hard to stop.
- Compromise with the culture is not the only challenge believers in Pergamos are facing.
- **Revelation 2:15**
- This has to do with ecclesiastical authority within the church.
- Jesus established His church with twelve uneducated, untrained men.
- He sent them out to plant churches all around the world.
- Jesus’ model was that a man was called to be a shepherd from among the flock, but he never stopped being a part of the flock.
- The idea of a pope or archbishops and denominations is not found in the Scriptures.
- It was drawn from the false religions of the time.
- It has always been God’s will that believers and churches be self-governed under the authority of the Holy Spirit and the Word of God.

- Here is the problem with the doctrine of the Nicolaitans.
- It calls people to yield their will to the church.
- Many people willingly do that because it is easier than having a living relationship with God the Holy Spirit.
- They just go to church and do what they are told.
- They don't have to work to get to know God through His Word, nor do they need to seek God for His will.
- If you don't seek God's will yourself, you might get led astray.
- **Revelation 2:17a**
- Jesus is speaking to people who are willing to hear what He says, believe that what He says is true, and then obey what Jesus says as well as they are able.
- A man of God seeking to be unvanquishable wakes up in the morning with a desire to hear from God all throughout the day.
- Just as compromise starts small and builds into an unstoppable glacier, holiness is a product of hundreds of small choices, thoughts, and actions throughout your day.
- The more you choose holiness in your moment-by-moment choices, the more holy you become.
- And instead of being a glacier of compromise, you become a glacier of holiness.
- It begins with a willingness to hear God's voice.
- **Revelation 2:17b**
- This is a promise to meet their daily needs.
- Life could get very hard for a believer who would not compromise with the worship of false gods.
- In my life I have been encouraged to do things that would make my life easier, but they were ethically or morally questionable.
- They were not obvious black or white, good versus evil choices; they were grey areas.
- I have found that grey areas are more black than white when my goal is holiness.
- I would rather miss out on something that MIGHT make my easier than miss out on the blessings of God.

- We must trust God to give us what we need.
- **Revelation 2:17c**
- White and black stones were used several ways in ancient times.
- One for voting, white = yes, black = no.
- Another way was judging in a trial; white = innocent and black = guilty.
- The third way was as a form of invitation.
- If you were invited to a feast or celebration, you would be sent a stone which had to be presented to get into the party.
- All three could apply here but the last one is the most likely.
- We have been invited to the wedding feast of the Lamb.
- ‘a new name’ – in heaven – no more connection to our past.
- In this life, we can never really separate ourselves from our past.
- But in heaven **Romans 8:1** will reach its fullest reality.
- ¹ **There is therefore now no condemnation to those who are in Christ Jesus, who do not walk according to the flesh, but according to the Spirit.**
- The church in Pergamos was a compromised church.
- Believers overcame by resisting the temptation to compromise and keep themselves pure.
- We live in a compromised and compromising culture.
- To live unvanquishable lives, we must choose to resist compromise.
- Do the right thing, even when that means you must go against what the culture tells you to do.
- Even if that means you might miss out on something that might make your life better.
- God’s will is always better than the world’s very best.
- Trust Him, walk with Jesus, listen to the Holy Spirit, and obey the Word of God.
- You are not alone. **Ephesians 6:13**
- ¹³ **Therefore take up the whole armor of God, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand.**
- Guys, let’s choose to be unvanquishable.
- **Prayer**