



## 4. THE COUNTERFEIT CITY

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### Sermon Notes

Text: Revelation 17-18

#### Intro:

The call to discipleship in Revelation is a call to discipleship in the city.

Revelation portrays a conflict between two cities: Babylon and New Jerusalem.

Toward which city are you oriented?

Revelation 17:1-8

#### 1. The Counterfeit City

##### John sees a woman... (17:2)

Parallels John's vision of the bride of the lamb (21:9)

The woman (Babylon) is the counterfeit city & the counterfeit bride.

Babylon began in Genesis 11:4 - humanity attempted to build a city without God.

Old Jerusalem become Babylon (Isaiah 1:21)

#### 2. Come out of Babylon

The call of the book of Revelation is for followers of the lamb to come out of Babylon and enter into New Jerusalem.

Revelation 18:4

We must learn to identify the "Babylonness" in our culture and refuse to participate in it.

John 17:15-16

We live in Babylon, but we live like the lamb.

#### 3. The City within the City

Revelation 21:2

To stay faithful to Jesus, we need to stick together. We need supportive, accountable and healthy Christian community.

#### Conclusion:

1. Learn to spot the Babylonness around you

2. Don't be afraid of Babylon

Revelation 17:16

"Any city that draws its authority and strength from other than the living God ends up being eaten by that other authority and strength" ~Darrell Johnson

3. Pray for Babylon

Jeremiah 29:7

## Life Group Discussion

### Warm up:

1. Have you ever lived in a big city? What's the difference between living in a big city and a small town? What are the unique benefits and/or challenges to faith in each place?
2. What stood out to you about Sunday's sermon? What was interesting? Confusing? Weird? Thought provoking?

### Study & Discussion:

1. Read Revelation 17:1-18. This is a powerful passage with lots of images that have shown up at different points throughout the book. What are some that you recognize from other places? Does anything in this passage confuse you (welcome to the club)? How is the "prostitute" described? How does that description relate to wickedness in the world?
2. Read John 17:13-19. Jesus prays that though we live in the world (Babylon) that we would not be like the world. What do you think it means to be "in the world, but not of the world"? What does the word "sanctify" mean? How does "the truth" sanctify us (v. 17)? Why would Jesus "send" (v. 18) us into the world if he knew it was so hard to live here?
3. Read Jeremiah 29:4-11. How were the Israelites supposed to live while in Babylon? How does that inform us in how to live today? Why pray and bless a city that so unholy? How can we be a blessing in Penticton?

### Application:

1. How can you (individually) and you (as a Life Group) and we (as a Church) be a blessing in our city?

### Prayer:

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