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

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**Icebreaker:** Share something that you are looking forward to this summer?

1. Have any of you ever had your identity stolen or had a credit card stolen? How did it make you feel to have your identity stolen?
2. Read Matthew 5:13-16; In this passage Jesus calls his followers to be what? What do you think that means?
3. Followers of Jesus are also called children of God. How does it make you feel to have this kind of identity? If we lost sight of this identity, is it possible that we could also lose our spiritual and eternal bearings? Explain.
4. Read Revelation 2:12-17 and answer the following questions.
  - a. What do you think the is meant by verse 12 where it describes Jesus as the one whose words are like a two-edged sword. (Read Hebrews 4:12 as a reference point)
  - b. What kinds of things do you think were going on in the city for Jesus to refer to it as the place where Satan's throne exists? Do you think that this would have been a place that was friendly to Christians? Why or why not?
  - c. Who is Balaam and what is Balaamism (read Numbers 22-24 for an understanding)
    - i. How is Balaamism described in Revelation?
    - ii. How did people diminish their identities as Christians at this time?
    - iii. How do you think this made God feel?
    - iv. How do people still diminish their identities in Christ?
  - d. What did Jesus call them to do (verse 16). What do you think this required?
  - e. What would happen if they did not repent? What would happen if they did repent?
5. Is there currently an area of your life that you wish God would take over and give you a new identity in? If so, take some time to tell him how you feel and why this is important.

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