

## “All In”

Week 4 – The Tolerant Church

### warm-up

#### Group Ice Breaker: DISTRACTION

1. Ask each person to think of a brief story about their past week that they would like to tell. Assign a number (1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup>, etc.) to each person. 1<sup>st</sup> person begins telling their story to the group. After 10 seconds, 2<sup>nd</sup> person begins speaking to the group at the same time. Continue until each person is speaking simultaneously, trying to finish your stories. Discuss the difficulty of remaining focused.

### word & application

#### Revelation 2:18-28

*“Write this letter to the angel of the church in Thyatira. This is the message from the Son of God, whose eyes are like flames of fire, whose feet are like polished bronze: **I know all the things you do. I have seen your love, your faith, your service, and your patient endurance. And I can see your constant improvement in all these things.** But I have this complaint against you. **You are permitting that woman—that Jezebel who calls herself a prophet—to lead my servants astray.** She teaches them to commit sexual sin and to eat food offered to idols. I gave her time to repent, but she does not want to turn away from her immorality. Therefore, I will throw her on a bed of suffering, and those who commit adultery with her will suffer greatly unless they repent and turn away from her evil deeds. I will strike her children dead. Then all the churches will know that I am the one who searches out the thoughts and intentions of every person. And I will give to each of you whatever you deserve. **But I also have a message for the rest of you in Thyatira who have not followed this false teaching (‘deeper truths,’ as they call them—depths of Satan, actually).** I will ask nothing more of you except that you **hold tightly to what you have until I come. To all who are victorious, who obey me to the very end, to them I will give authority over all the nations.** They will rule the nations with an iron rod and smash them like clay pots. They will have the same authority I received from my Father, and I will also give them the morning star!”*

#### Proverbs 4:25-27

*“Let your eyes look directly forward, and your gaze be straight before you. Ponder the path of your feet; then all your ways will be sure. Do not swerve to the right or to the left; turn your foot away from evil.”*

#### Ephesians 2:8-10

*“God saved you by his grace when you believed. And you can’t take credit for this; it is a gift from God. Salvation is not a reward for the good things we have done, so none of us can boast about it. For we are God’s masterpiece. He has created us anew in Christ Jesus, so we can do the good things he planned for us long ago.”*

#### Discussion & Application: Explore these questions through in-depth conversation.

*Living a life that shares a message of love, faith, service to others and patient endurance can be hard.*

- Have you ever been distracted from Jesus’s pure message of love, faith, service and patience?
- Have you ever been led away from this message through selfish ambition/pride? What happened?
- Have we perverted this message and created a new message that is more self-satisfying for ourselves?
- How can we return to this pure message and run the race that leads to great eternal reward?

### prayer

Share recent “God moments.” Pray over requests. Pray that we can stay true to a message from Jesus Christ that is not self-serving or prideful. Pray that we seek validation and strength only in Jesus Christ. Pray that we seek the voice of the Holy Spirit over the voice of applause. Pray that as we do this, we are not just sustained, but strengthened and over-filled with love, peace, provision and protection.