Is Christianity Intolerant?

Zanesville, OH | May 27, 2018 | Sermon Notes

**Foundational Scripture:** John 14:6

**Intro**:

* The above title is perhaps one of the most loaded questions of our newly revolutionized culture. The topic has been broached more recently in the last 10 years than it has for a long time. In order to get to the heart of the matter we have to understand the use of the word *“tolerance.”*

**The Answer Based on Two Definitions:**

1. **Tolerance denoting Acceptance**
   * In a culture where almost everything is relative, tolerance has taken on a whole new meaning. James Warner Wallace is a homicide detective who has given his time to Christian Apologetics.
   * He defines the new, complicated and relativistic idea of tolerance this way: *“The act of recognizing and accepting the equal validity and value of all views, beliefs and actions.”* 
     1. Answer (1) – **Christianity is Intolerant:** John 14:6; Acts 4:12; John 17:3; John 10:1; Luke 6:27; Gal. 1:6-12.
        1. Based on Wallace’s definition, Christianity is absolutely intolerant.
        2. Christianity simply does not teach nor imply acceptance of all beliefs, values and actions.
        3. Nothing could be more contrary to the truths of scriptures and what our Lord manifested in word and deed.
     2. **Christianity is Intolerant because God is Intolerant of Sin:** Prov. 15:29; Isa. 59:1-2; Rom. 1:18; Matt. 25:41-46.
        1. The wayward ideas and controversial values that culture says is morally adequate is a far cry from the morality Jesus lived and taught.
        2. Moral relativism is no option for the Non-Christian or Christian.
        3. God is intolerant of sin and Hell exists for such a reason.
2. **Tolerance denoting Recognition** 
   * The traditional definition of tolerance is: *“allow the existence, occurrence, or practice of (something that one does not necessarily like or agree with) without interference.”*
   * Implicit in this definition is recognition and respect for the other party involved in the disagreement at hand without the obligation of acceptance.
     1. Answer (2) – **Christianity is Tolerant:** Matt. 5:44;Rom. 11:14; 12:14, 17-18; 1 Cor. 9:22; 1 Thess. 5:15; Heb. 12:14; 1 Pet. 2:21-24; 3:8-9.
        1. This must not be confused with tolerating sin. Christianity is tolerant in the sense that no other worldview values the human soul as highly as Christianity does since all were made in God’s image.
        2. Christianity teaches we are to live at peace with all men while teaching the truth.
        3. No other worldview teaches forgiveness, compassion and love for others like Christianity does.

**Full Answer:** Christianity is intolerant of sin and literature contrary to God’s truth. Christianity also teaches we must pursue peace with all men and teach the truth without compromise (tolerance).

**What Can We Do?**

1. Pursue peace with all while teaching the gospel without compromise (1 Cor. 9:22)

2. Rebuke sin in humility while pointing all to salvation in Christ (Titus 2:11-14)