

When Tolerance is Intolerable 082017AM

Revelation 2:18-25

- “Tolerance” noun (ACCEPTANCE) (formal toleration) willingness to accept behavior and beliefs that are different from your own, although you might not agree with or approve of them. (Cambridge Dictionary)
- Tolerance means acceptance, approval, compromise and sometimes, even endorsement.
- Some people confuse “tolerance” with “love.”
- To others, "tolerance" means acceptance, or at least silence, to the point of denying the Christian faith so as to affirm and accommodate them.

God Neither Accepts nor Accommodates Sin

- Hab. 1:13 “You are of purer eyes than to behold evil, and cannot look on wickedness. Why do You look on those who deal treacherously, and hold Your tongue when the wicked devours a person more righteous than he?” (Isa. 5:20-21; Jer. 5:31).
- Jesus commanded "Take these things away!" – Jn. 2:13-17 & fearlessly confronted sin and error – Mat. 15:7-14; Mat. 23.
- Rev. 2:20 – Tolerance in the church at Thyatira invited the wrath of Christ!

Christians Cannot Ignore Sin

- Cannot accept, affirm, compromise with, or remain silent – Rev. 2:2, 20.
- Doctrinal error is sin against God – Gal. 1:6-10; 2 Jn. 9; 2 Tim. 2:16-18; 1 Jn. 4:1-6.
- Being “made all things to all men” does not imply accepting sin or compromising with sinners – 1 Cor. 9:19-23.

Some Things Need To Be Tolerated

- Faithful brethren – Rom. 15:7, 14. Compare 3 Jn. 9-10.
- Preaching and teaching of the truth – Rom. 10:13-15.

- Brethren who are growing through biases in matters of opinion, toward which God is indifferent – Rom. 14:1-4.
- Those who are growing and learning – Acts 18:24-28.
- Children – Eph. 6:4; Mk. 10:14 “But when Jesus saw it, He was greatly displeased and said to them, "Let the little children come to Me, and do not forbid them; for of such is the kingdom of God.”

Some Things All Can Do

- Live the faith with a pure heart – 2 Tim. 2:22.
- Participate in and support Bible study and discussion – Jude 3; 2 Cor. 10:3-5.
- Be unashamed & evangelistic – 2 Tim. 1:8-9; Acts 4:19-20. Sinners won’t be converted by Christians who compromise their faith.
- Do not be quarrelsome, but be gentle to all, able to teach, patient – 2 Tim. 2:24-26.
- Seek salvation for the lost, not destruction – 1 Cor. 9:22.

Decision...

- Tolerance, like other words, it is defined by its context.
- Following Jesus distinguishes Christians from worldly people, and will bring opposition – Jn. 15:18-19.
- Be accepting and supportive of faithful & growing disciples.
- Be intolerant, but not ugly, about what God rejects.
- Be patient, faithful, compassionate – Jude 22-23.
- Remember, the Lord Jesus will cleanse His temple again! – Rev. 21:5-8.