

“Lies the World Has Taught Me” Series

Week Two: Tolerance is More Important Than Truth

Key Verse: Romans 12: 2 – “Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God’s will is...”

Question: In today’s culture, which is more valuable: truth or tolerance?

“Old” Definition of Tolerance (Websters) *“to recognize and respect (others’ beliefs, practices, etc) without necessarily agreeing or sympathizing”*

“New” Definition of Tolerance – *“every individual’s beliefs, lifestyle, and truth claims are equal, and to not agree and celebrate this is intolerant and hateful”*

What Does This Look Like? Here are some examples...

Pic of someone in deep discussion with another person
Pic of a college campus

What Has Changed?

- Truth has been replaced with relativism
- (Relativism: all truth is relative to cultures and individuals/no “absolute” truth**
- Truth has been labeled as intolerant

Is There Actually Such a Thing as Truth?

- There are still some things that are not debated...for the time being!
(picture of a clock, thermometer, weights, maps, planes in the air – all demonstrating some physical laws and physical laws agreed on by all, such as distances, gravity, etc)
- Why are spiritual and moral truths losing ground?

(screen with sayings such as: murder is wrong; hell is real; Jesus is the only way to heaven; stealing is a sin; sex outside marriage is sin, etc.)

(add another slide with the question “Is it Really Wise to Avoid the Truth Just Because It Makes Us Uncomfortable?”)

Are All Religions Equal?

- How can they all be equal and true if they disagree?
- Jesus was tolerant but made claims that were extremely intolerant!
 - **Forgiveness** – Matthew 6: 14, 15; 9: 1-5
 - **Salvation** – John 3: 3; 6: 29; 14: 6
 - **Authority** – John 10: 18; Matthew 28: 18-20
 - *How could he be so narrow, exclusive, intolerant?*

Consider Keys and Check the Cookies...

What Will We Do?

How do we reach a world that is choking on its own tolerance? We humbly pursue truth and aggressively practice love.