

THINKING IN A WORLD GONE MAD
Part 2: THE TOLERANCE TRAP
November 19, 2017

“Heaven and earth will pass away, but My words will never pass away.” Matthew 24:35 (NIV)

TOLERANCE DEFINED

Historical Definition: Treating Others With DIGNITY And
RESPECT Even When I Believe Their Actions/Beliefs Are WRONG.

Current Definition: Expecting Others To APPROVE And
AFFIRM My Actions/Beliefs Whether Or Not They Agree. Failure
To Approve And Affirm My Actions/Beliefs Means That They HATE Me.

THE TOLERANCE TRAP

When HONEST DISAGREEMENT Is Equated With
HATE Or INTOLERANCE, Tolerance Will Cease To Exist.

JESUS ON JUDGING

“Do not judge, or you too will be judged. For in the same way you judge others, you will be judged, and with the measure you use, it will be measured to you.” Matthew 7:1-2 (NIV)

• **Three Rules Of Biblical Interpretation**

1. Understand The CONTEXT.
2. Interpret Individual Verses In Light Of The TOTALITY
Of The Bible’s Teaching On That Subject.
3. APPLY It To My Life.

“So when you give to the needy, do not announce it with trumpets, as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and on the streets, to be honored by others. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward in full.” Matthew 6:2 (NIV)

“And when you pray, do not be like the hypocrites, for they love to pray standing in the synagogues and on the street corners to be seen by others. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward in full.” Matthew 6:5 (NIV)

"Why do you look at the speck of sawdust in your brother's eye and pay no attention to the plank in your own eye? How can you say to your brother, 'Let me take the speck out of your eye,' when all the time there is a plank in your own eye? You hypocrite, first take the plank out of your own eye, and then you will see clearly to remove the speck from your brother's eye." Matthew 7:3-5 (NIV)

"When you fast, do not look somber as the hypocrites do, for they disfigure their faces to show others they are fasting. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward in full." Matthew 6:16 (NIV)

"Watch out for false prophets. They come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly they are ferocious wolves. By their fruit you will recognize them ... Not everyone who says to Me, 'Lord, Lord,' will enter the kingdom of heaven, but only the one who does the will of My Father who is in heaven. Many will say to Me on that day, 'Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in Your name and in Your name drive out demons and in Your name perform many miracles?' Then I will tell them plainly, 'I never knew you. Away from me, you evildoers!'" Matthew 7:15-16, 21-23 (NIV)

FOUR TRUTHS ABOUT JUDGING

"My brothers and sisters, if one of you should wander from the truth and someone should bring that person back, remember this: Whoever turns a sinner from the error of their way will save them from death and cover over a multitude of sins." James 5:19-20 (NIV)

TRUTH NO. 1: JUDGE BIBLICALLY.

"Stop judging by mere appearances, but instead judge correctly." John 7:24 (NIV)

TRUTH NO.2: DON'T JUDGE SUPERFICIALLY.

"You, therefore, have no excuse, you who pass judgment on someone else, for at whatever point you judge another, you are condemning yourself, because you who pass judgment do the same things. Now we know that God's judgment against those who do such things is based on truth. So when you, a mere human being, pass judgment on them and yet do the same things, do you think you will escape God's judgment? Or do you show contempt for the riches of His kindness, forbearance and patience, not realizing that God's kindness is intended to lead you to repentance?" Romans 2:1-4 (NIV)

TRUTH NO. 3: DON'T JUDGE HYPOCRITICALLY.

"What business is it of mine to judge those outside the church? Are you not to judge those inside?" I Corinthians 5:12 (NIV)

**TRUTH NO. 4: DON'T HOLD NON - CHRISTIANS TO A
CHRISTIAN STANDARD OF BEHAVIOR.**

"Brothers and sisters, if someone is caught in a sin, you who live by the Spirit should restore that person gently. But watch yourselves, or you also may be tempted. Carry each other's burdens, and in this way you will fulfill the law of Christ." Galatians 6:1-2 (NIV)

TRUTH NO. 5: BE EAGER TO RESTORE REPENTANT BELIEVERS.

MY NEXT STEPS THIS WEEK IS ...

- I will discover what it means to be a follower of Jesus Christ.
- I will sign-up for the Christmas Baptism – December 10th
- I will follow Christ's example of loving others by getting involved in a serving opportunity through an ongoing ministry or the Christmas Free Sale on December 2nd – Signing -up to volunteer.
- I will prayerfully consider participating in the Christmas Challenge.
 - pick-up a brochure at the Welcome Center