



Of Seeds and Flowers



Volume 38 Issue 4 – Founded in 1982

April 2021

William R. Pfeiffer – Director

Mary's Field, Ltd. - PO Box 99 - Hebron, CT 06248 - 860.530.1253 - wisdom@marysfield.org

SILENCED BY TOLERANCE

Why is it, that in America, one message is tolerated, and another is not? One group is allowed to speak in the name of tolerance; while those in opposition are silenced in the name of that same tolerance.

In our new WOKE and CANCEL CULTURE, such irony is common since this "pre-approved tolerance" has become one of the primary goals in schools, government and media. Yet few people seem to understand what our society means when the word tolerance is used.

Tolerance traditionally means to recognize and respect others' beliefs, practices and so on, without necessarily agreeing or sympathizing. About ten years ago the use of the term tolerance changed to the assumption that all truth is relative (a view held by 70% of the American public, according to The Barna Group). This form of "tolerance" meant that one must consider every individual's beliefs, values and lifestyle claims as equally valid. Now, in the present culture, "tolerance" means "you must accept my beliefs, values and lifestyle", and you are not allowed to oppose my understanding of reality and truth = CANCEL CULTURE/WOKE. If I recall correctly, Jesus had a real problem with this kind of thinking with the "Cancel Culture Pharisees", who tried to silence Jesus - couldn't, and then killed Him to protect their power. Are the statues of Jesus, the next target for the Cancel Culture?



This new tolerance gets very complicated.

- 1) In a belief system where the sole virtue is tolerance, the big sin is, of course, intolerance.
- 2) Since the new understanding of tolerance is based on the assumption that all truth is relative, it becomes not only permissible but also IMPERATIVE TO BE INTOLERANT of those who believe that truth is NOT RELATIVE.
- 3) For those who believe truth is relative then, it is quite consistent for them to be intolerant of those who believe that absolute moral standards do exist. This is why many institutions especially our colleges and universities can endorse all sorts of views and behaviors while simultaneously condemning or silencing those who disagree. Colleges in the U.S. are some of the most intolerant of our institutions with respect to free thought. Anyone even mildly objecting to the liberal, left wing, "group think" (actually more feelings than thought) interpretation of reality is quickly silenced or marginalized. Young people are supposed to debate, test their ideas, learn reason in college but these days the quickest way to shut down an argument is simply to take offense. "You offended me." "You hurt my feelings." "I don't like it."

Love's response: Such a monumental cultural shift in the understanding of tolerance presents a great challenge to even the most cleaver thinker. However, it is a challenge that can - **and must** - be met. St. Paul urges Christians to "**Speak the truth in love**" (Ephesians 4:15). **Speaking the truth in love** is not only timely but also critical. We must recover - without embarrassment or apology - the basic belief in truth. **This means embracing all people but not all beliefs.** It means listening to and learning from all people but not necessarily agreeing with them. We must courageously speak the truth in a sympathetic, compassionate and humble spirit. Christians are subject to a much higher standard than tolerance. "**Do everything in love.**" 1 Cor.16:14.

Tolerance says, "You must approve of what I do." **Love responds,** "I must do something harder; I will love you even when your behavior offends me." *Wouldn't this be nice if it worked both ways?*

Tolerance says, "You must agree with me." **Love responds,** "I must do something harder; I will lovingly object, and then, tell you the objective truth, because the truth will set you free." At the Last Supper Jesus used the words TRUTH, TRUE or TRULY 19 times. (New American Bible). Before Pilate: "The reason why I came into the world, is to testify to the TRUTH. ANYONE, ANYONE committed to the TRUTH hears MY VOICE." John. 18: 37. If this is true, IT IS TRUE FOR EVERYONE, EVERYWHERE!!!

Tolerance says, "You must allow me to have my way." **Love responds,** "I must do something harder; I will encourage you to continue to search for the truth, as I share ideas with you, because you are worth it." Tolerance seeks to be inoffensive; love takes risks. Tolerance costs little; love costs everything. Tough stuff!

Objective truth has become a thing of the past. We now have designer truth, designer morality. Truth has become a matter of opinion; morality a matter of preference. All decisions are made on present feelings, experience and circumstances. Principles, truth, hard evidence, facts, logic, clear thinking, research, the study of ethics and sound Judeo-Christian morality are no longer in control. Truth is now whatever EVERYONE OR ANYONE wants it to be. **"Why waste time trying to discover the truth when you can so easily create it." Baldacci.** Gently, firmly, lovingly we have to resist the pressure of our failing culture. **Where there is no God, man becomes the measurement of all morality.** A wise man was once asked what he would do if he had all the power in the world. He answered: I would make words go back to their original meaning. I would do the same with "TOLERANCE", "TRUTH", and "INSANITY".

One Native American tribe held a belief that within every heart there is a knife. This knife turns like a minute hand on a clock. Every time the heart lies, the knife rotates one increment. As it turns, it cuts into the heart. As it turns, it carves a circle. The more it turns, the wider the circle becomes. After the knife has rotated one full circle, a path has been carved. The result? No more hurt, no more heart, NO MORE TRUTH.

A DROP OF RAIN ... A BIT OF SUN

Andre's Story: There is an old African story about a wealthy businessman who took a long vacation. He journeyed for many days until he came to the ocean on the east coast of Africa. Every day he walked along the docks and watched the fishermen. He noticed one particular man who brought home a great catch every day. This made the businessman think about the opportunities that the fisherman might be missing. So, one day he said to him: "You are a good fisherman. You could make a lot of money with your skills."



"Thank you, kind sir, but I'm completely content with my life. I work hard each day. I provide for my family with the fish that I catch, and I get to spend a lot of time with my best friend: my wife." The businessman was adamant: "You don't understand. You could teach others to do what you do, and in that way, you could buy many ships. You could export to many countries and become extremely wealthy, "

"And then what would I do?" the fisherman asked. "Well, then you could spend lots of time doing exactly what brings you great joy." Such as..?" "Well, you could sit at home, look out at the ocean, fish as much as you want, and have a comfortable life." **"In that case, I am already wealthy - I do the things that you talk about every day!"**

The fisherman knew about abundance because he lived it. His values were clear to him, his needs were met, and the things that mattered most to him were part of his daily life. The wealthy man couldn't see that because he was conditioned to think that money was the most important element of happiness. Even when the fisherman told him, "I'm completely content," he just couldn't understand.

"Habits are
first cobwebs,
then cables."

Spanish Proverb



A 2019 NBC News/Wall Street Journal poll found that nearly 4 out of 5 young American adults said “self-fulfillment” is key to the good life, while a DISTINCT MINORITY believed that religion, patriotism and having children are an important part of life. Similarly, University of Notre Dame sociologist of religion, Christian Smith, found in his study of adults 18 to 25 that most of them believe society is nothing more than **“a collection of autonomous individuals out to enjoy life.”** WHY, is this so? Have we raised 2 or 3 generations of spiritual, religious illiterates?

Some possible causes: 1. Weak, little or bad parenting. 2. Day care or (little care). 3. Weak values education in schools, especially secondary and college. 4. Corrupt/failing culture that reinforces a sick individualism, relativism and non-truth. -“I gotta be me”. 5. Sick media 6. Weak or no church. EVERYONE WORSHIPS AT SOME TEMPLE. If the above poll is correct the name of the temple is either SELF OR PLEASURE OR CONVENIENCE 7. OVER-USE of Technology-All of the problems we have without technology can't be solved with technology.

To be fair and truthful, this, CERTAINLY, does not reflect the truth about ALL young people however, more than enough to say with present certainty, ‘THIS IS WHAT WE GOT.’ “If you stand for nothing you will fall for anything.”

"The future belongs to those who give the next generation reason to hope."



- Teilhard de Chardin

Vision and reality

In 1917, Mary's words at Fatima were ignored. Tragedy followed. *"If my requests are not granted, Russia will spread her errors throughout the world, provoking wars and persecutions against the church. Many good people will be martyred, there WILL COME ANOTHER GREAT WAR, and various nations will be destroyed."* **Would it not have been nice not to have WWII?** If we only listened!!!

"You understand absolutely nothing about modern civilization unless you first admit that it is a universal conspiracy against all interior life." Georges Bernanos "France, Contre les Robots"

"My Lord God, I have no idea where I am going. I do not see the road ahead of me. I cannot know for certain where it will end. Nor do I really know myself, and the fact that I think I am following your will does not mean that I am actually doing so. But I believe that the desire to please you does in fact please you. And I hope I have that desire in all that I am doing so. I hope that I will never do anything apart from that desire. And I know that if I do this you will lead me by the right road, though I may know nothing about it. Therefore, I will trust you always though I may seem to be lost and in the shadow of death. I will not fear, for you are ever with me, and you will never leave me to face my perils alone." "Thoughts in Solitude" - Thomas Merton

Robert Moore is an internationally recognized lecturer author. He is an authority on cross-cultural, comparative religion and human spirituality and one of the architects of masculine spirituality. He is presently at the University of Chicago. He addresses both secular and religious audiences but his **message is ultimately the same for both.**

"If you don't pray, if you don't seek silence and your own spiritual growth you will inevitably become either depressed or elated or bounce back and forth between the two. Only prayer or quiet meditation, he says, can provide the fine line (spiritual, psychological and emotional) that will keep you from being habitually depressed or obsessed with your own ego. This is true, he says, irrespective of whether you are religious or not."

- Robert Moore

If you are retired, please try to give the Lord a serious piece of your day. Start with 20 minutes of prayer, and as quickly as you can, go to Centering Prayer, and slowly increase your time. Who knows, in a year or so, you may find an hour too little? Every hour that you pray add two hours to your day. TRULY!

In 1970, the following words at a retreat were seared into my soul. "If you were hauled into court for being a Christian would there be enough evidence to convict you?" -AND IT MAKES ME DO THE FOLLOWING:

When was the last time you prayed for Donald Trump, Fox news, Bret Baier, President Biden, Pelosi, Schumer, CNN, Blitzer, Soros, ANTIFA, etc..?

"To you who hear me, I say: Love your enemies, do good to those who curse you and pray for those who maltreat you. When someone slaps you on the cheek, turn and give him the other... Why look at the speck in your brother's eye when you miss the PLANK in your own? How can you say to your brother, 'Brother, let me remove the speck in your eye,' yet fail yourself to see the plank lodged in your own? Hypocrite, remove the plank from your own eye first, then you will see clearly enough to remove the speck from your brother's eye." - Luke 6: 41.

SPEAKING SOFTLY

"If Christianity has failed, it is not because it has been tried and found wanting but because IT HAS NEVER TRULY BEEN TRIED. Chesterton Christianity, truly implemented, is the answer to today's morass. Christianity uses EVERYTHING. The genius of Jesus' ministry is that He embraces tragedy, suffering, pain, betrayal and death itself to bring us to God. There are no dead ends. EVERYTHING can be transformed, transmuted and everything can be used." Richard Rohr

FOR ALL SAD WORDS
OF TONGUE AND
PEN, THE SADDEST
ARE THESE, 'IT MIGHT
HAVE BEEN'.

John Greenleaf Whittier

"Christianity is the most encouraging, the most joyous, the least repressive and the least forbidding of all the religions of mankind. There is no religion which throws off the burden of life so completely, which gives so large a scope for the high spirits of the soul, and which welcomes to its bosom with so warm an embrace those things of beauty which are joys forever. The Christian religion has arduous phases... but the end of it all is a resurrection and not a burial, a festival and not a funeral, an ascent into the heights and not a lingering in the depths." L.B. Jacks

"To clasp hands in prayer is the beginning of an uprising against the disorder of the world." - Karl Barth

Do something today that your future self will thank you for.



NONPROFIT ORG.
U S POSTAGE PAID
WILLIMANTIC, CT
PERMIT NO. 430

Return Service
Requested.

Mary's Field, LTD
P.O. Box 99
Hebron, CT 06248