

Of Seeds and Flowers

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TOLERANCE, ONE WORD - TWO MEANINGS!!

Tolerance used to mean "to recognize and respect another's beliefs, practices, opinions without necessarily agreeing or sympathizing with them". The understanding that "everyone is entitled to his or her own opinion" is what tolerance meant/means to most of us.

Today's definition of tolerance has greatly changed. Today's definition of tolerance considers everyone's beliefs, values, lifestyle and truth claims as equally valid. Not only does everyone have an equal right to their beliefs, but all beliefs are equal with some beliefs being declared "more equal than others".



The new tolerance goes beyond respecting a person's rights; it demands praise and endorsement of the person's beliefs, values and lifestyle.

This is a very dangerous shift in meaning but more importantly it represents a great shift in social thinking and reality, -- the kind of thinking that can take a country off its course for a long time. We are still suffering the effects of the 18th century enlightenment and are trying to process the 20th century sexual and gender revolution. IDEAS HAVE GREAT POWER! Just ask a 1917 Russian or a 1939 German. If this "new tolerance" had won out during the time of our Founding Fathers, we would not have a constitution, free speech, or a country. *"Where there is no vision, the people perish."*

The new tolerance has many dangerous implications. First, it almost eliminates the possibility of public discussion or debate on a given topic - and for churches this means religious topics. Morality, Biblical truth, existence of God, Jesus, family life, marriage, children, social structure, etc. can no longer be talked about in the public forum for fear of seeming intolerant.

In year's past when I would discuss God, church, sexual values, or religion in a public forum people would often say to me "prove it" or "I don't believe you" and that was fine. Now there has been a startling shift to, "Who do you think you are?" or "How dare you say or even think that?" The concern now is no longer about the truth of the message but the basic right to speak about it - a very bad turn of events.



How should we, as responsible citizens, as Christians, respond to this new understanding of tolerance? We must humbly, firmly, lovingly, pursue the truth. We are called to speak the truth, always in love, even to power and even in today's unfriendly climate. And we must remember that error, sin, evil, non-truth have no rights, but PEOPLE WHO ARE IN ERROR DO HAVE RIGHTS. **We embrace all people but not all beliefs.**

In the new cultural climate, any unpopular message can be labeled "intolerant" and therefore be repressed. Google, the media, government, schools, justice system etc. are experts at it. EVERYONE SUFFERS AND LOSES!! Mary's Field podcasts have been censored many times.

To share your beliefs or convictions when they differ from other people's beliefs is now seen as an intolerant judgement of their beliefs or lifestyle. For decades, the words "**Politically correct**" stopped all discussion. Today it is the WOKE theology or religion which is "**Politically correct' on STEROIDS**". A person automatically becomes a heretic who doesn't bend a knee and subscribe. The new understanding of tolerance is terminology devised by the liberal, left wing or intelligentsia to keep the rest of us under control. We have been led down a path of moral chaos, muddled headed and sloppy thinking and into a spiritual desert. We are being kept from common sense, from debate, from the ability of making judgments necessary for a society, for people to survive, for a people to do the truth.

TOLERANCE RUNS BOTH WAYS! ONLY THE TRUTH BRINGS TRUE FREEDOM!

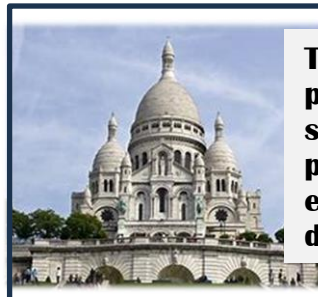
In the new understanding of tolerance anyone who disagrees with the LGBTQ manifesto is not viewed as an adversary to be debated but as a hater to be silenced and vilified. The left/liberals/progressives no longer defend free speech. Anything that upsets WOKE'S THEOLOGICAL "MY TRUTH" is now a hate crime or hate speech. Totally vindictive, based on MY TRUTH (usually feelings) control. The WOKE religion!

How can we respond to this new understanding of tolerance? We have to humbly, firmly, lovingly pursue the truth. We must speak the truth, always in love, even in today's unreasonable climate. And we need to remember that sin, error, evil, non-truth have no rights, but erring people DO HAVE RIGHTS. We embrace all people but not all beliefs.

Today's tolerance says, "You must approve of what I do". Love responds, "*I must do something harder, 'I will love you, even when I disagree with your ideas, or your behavior offends me'.*" Today's 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 other ideas with you because I believe you are worth the sharing***". **TOUGH STUFF!!**

Objective truth has become a thing of the past. There is no more objective morality- a morality that is based on principle, valid, true for everyone. We now have designer truth, designer morality. Truth has become a matter of opinion, morality a matter of preference. Principles, truth, hard evidence clear thinking, the study of ethics and sound Judeo- Christian morality are no longer in control. More and more our

At the Olympics, in Paris, did you see the picture of the 'transgender- fully- dressed- up' people mock the Last Supper? They represented Christ, the 12 apostles, in position, like DaVinci's famous painting of the Last Supper. EVIL, SINFUL, BLASPHEMOUS. NOTHING GOOD comes from this! - more anger, violence, confrontation, mockery etc.. ALL BAD! In this display who was tolerant?



The city of Paris cleaned up the polluted Seine River for the triathlon swimmers, but a violent storm re-polluted the river. The lights in Paris, except for The Basilica of Sacre-Coeur de Montmartre, went out.

As an aside, for years I have wondered why putting a crucifix-a Christian symbol- in urine is considered art, and on the other hand to display a homosexual symbol the same way is called a hate crime?

**COINCIDENCE OR
GOD-INCIDENCE?**

FEELINGS ONLY America believes there are **no objective truths only different views**. Truth is now whatever everyone or anyone wants it to be.

The WOKE RELIGION promotes "MY TRUTH". We are living in an unintellectual, unprincipled, "whatever you like or want is ok" world. Most Christians have been assimilated into the American culture/religion. -CUKTURE CHRISTIANS, SOCIAL CHRISTIANS, "You shall know the TRUTH and the TRUTH SHALL SET YOU free." Jesus, He died for the truth. Not $\frac{1}{2}$ truth, not $\frac{3}{4}$ truth but the FULL TRUTH. "Love never rejoices with what is WRONG but rejoices with the TRUTH. 1 Cor. 13. Love, love, love. Just say you are doing it with LOVE AND everything is OK. Have you ever asked yourself: IS THERE ANYTHING I CAN'T DO IN THE NAME OF LOVE? -OR DOES THE LOVE MOTIVE RELEASE US FROM ALL RESTRAINT?

BE AWAKE, NOT WOKE!!

How many millions of people, using this "new tolerance" had their finger on the trigger of the gun that shot Mr. Trump? People cry "tolerance" until they gain power then they become intolerant.

Will Rogers once said, "It's not so much the thing you know that hurt you as the things you "know" that ain't so." Our present day understanding of tolerance is one of the things that many people "know that ain't so" - and it is killing us.

TO WHOM DO YOUR CHILDREN BELONG? The state, the school, the hospital, the physician?

God loves you not because you are good, but God loves you because God is good. God lives in each human being but so few of us know it. Practical atheism has taken over. American Christians are no longer a recognizable minority because they have been assimilated into American culture. American FIRST. Christian SECOND. CULTURAL CHRISTIANS, SOCIAL CHRISTIANS, CAFETERIA CHRISTIANS. PRACTICAL ATHEISM.

We are living in a world that rejects love and affirms selfishness as the ultimate value. The pressure from society is constantly penetrating itself through our upbringing, education and culture. Society as a whole, is saturated with the NON-GOD. 'This is the work of God, that you believe in the one He sent.' John 6.

We are ALL united to God but only some of us know it. Most people deny or doubt it. Our ego wants to be self-made, not other made which is our whole problem with receiving God's grace. We can't imagine ourselves as attractive as possible to other people. So, we scrub ourselves up making ourselves as attractive as possible. She's pretty; he's nice. "Who are YOU when no one is looking? **Are you as good as your dog or cat thinks?** All I can do is pull myself up and make myself a step-ahead of the rest of you. "Pride comes before the fall." "Lord, make me holy and not know it."

Politically, we are positioned where we ought to be: we don't endorse candidates but we address the issues of interest to Christians, patriots. Since the 1980's the leadership of the Democratic party has become increasingly intolerant of religious liberty, and thoroughly secularized. Their position on abortion is immorally off-the-charts.

Saul Alinsky, the father of many current politicians and movements famously said, *"We need to rub raw the sores of discontent. Where there is a wound, we do not want to heal it, we want to exacerbate it and create a revolutionary culture."* The movement targets faith and family and religion in a particular way. Hillary Clinton wrote her college thesis promoting Alinsky and Barak Obama used Alinsky's methods as a community organizer. Saul Alinsky dedicated his book *"Rules for Radicals"* to Satan

Pope Benedict XVI, truly a great scholar, wrote, *"We are moving toward a dictatorship of relativism which does not recognize anything for certain and which has as its highest goal one's ego and one's own desires."* A wise man who hit the nail on the head. As the famous scholar Thomas Aquinas once said, *"Don't look at who said it but the truth of the words spoken."*

THE VIOLIN

It was battered and scarred, and the auctioneer thought it scarcely worth his while to waste much time on the old violin but held it up with a smile.

"What am I bid good folks" he cried, "who will start the bidding for me?" "A dollar a dollar then two! Only two? Two dollars and who will make it three?" "Three dollars once, three dollars twice; going for three." But no. From the room far back, a gray-haired man came forward and picked up the bow; then wiping the dust from the old violin, and tightening the loose strings he played a melody pure and sweet as a caroling Angel sings.

The music ceased and the auctioneer, with a voice that was quiet and low, said: "What am I bid for the old violin?" And held it up with the bow. "One thousand dollars, and who'll make it two? Two thousand! And who'll make it three?

Three thousand once, three thousand twice, and going, going gone", said he.

The people cheered, but some of them cried, "We do not quite understand. What changed its worth?"

Swift came the reply:

*"The touch of a **Master's hand.**"*

And many a man with life out of tune, and battered and scarred with sin, is auctioned cheap to the thoughtless crowd, much like the old violin.

A "mess of pottage," a glass of wine, a game- and he travels on. He is "going" once, and "going" twice, He's "going" and almost gone."

But the Master comes, and the foolish crowd can never quite understand, the worth of a soul and the change that is wrought, BY THE TOUCH OF THE MASTER'S HAND.



A wiseman in China was once asked what he would do if he were given all the power in the world. He replied, "*I would make all words go back to their original meaning.*" I think I would do the same with the word **TOLERANCE.**

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