



What's Up With: Christians Being Intolerant?

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Christianity is viewed by some like the unwanted dad, trying to introduce boundaries, structure, and accountability to a world that doesn't really want it, which leads to the label of "intolerant."

1. Define in your own words the "old" definition of tolerance and the "new" definition of tolerance. What is the key distinction between the two?
2. Christians will always be seen as intolerant because *we still believe in absolute truth and morality*.
 - a. **Read John 14:6.** How should a Christian's understanding of truth and morality be shaped?
 - b. If you're in a conversation with a friend or close family member, and they make a claim that there is no absolute truth, what do you think would be the best way to respond?
3. Christians will always be seen as intolerant because *we still believe God is the ultimate authority*. **Read Matthew 6:19-24.** How can tell who or what someone's true ultimate authority is?
4. Christians will always be seen as intolerant because *we still define love differently*. The world claims love means not only valuing someone's inherent dignity but to approve and celebrate their entire manner of life. **Read 1 John 4:7-10.** Describe what the Christian understanding of love is.

Challenge: What can you do this week to live in greater accordance with God's absolute truth and morality, that makes it clear that God is the ultimate authority of your life, and/or show true love to others?

Prayer: Our heart towards the world should be one of love, not attack. Those in your life who may have false views about Christians do so ultimately because they have not had a personal encounter with Jesus. Partner up with someone from your group. Name who in your life comes to mind as someone who has these mistaken views. Spend time praying for them by name, asking that God would reveal Himself and that the Lord would give each of you opportunities to show and share the love of Christ with that person.

STUDY DEEPER

"Is Tolerance Intolerant? Pursuing the Climate of Acceptance and Inclusion" by Ravi Zacharias

Watch the video at <https://youtu.be/uyTa5r4GG4M>.