

## Tolerance - cont.

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back), but God does not condone sin (Romans 2:4; 3:25). The Christian is “forbearing” (Grek *anexikalos*, patient with wrong), but he or she does not condone sin (2 Timothy 2:24-26).

### **Am I To Be “Tolerant” Of All Religions?**

No, as a Christian, I am not to be tolerance of all religions. Jesus was not tolerant of all religions (Matthew 7:13-14, 21-22; John 14:6), Peter was not (Acts 4:12), Paul was not (Galatians 1:6-9; 2:5), John was not (1 John 2:22; 4:1-3), and New Testament Christians were not (Rev. 2:2; “tolerate” in the NIV; see also 2:20).

### **Am I To Be “Tolerant” Of All Lifestyles?**

No, as a Christian, I am not be tolerant of all lifestyles (like homosexuality). Jesus was not tolerant of all lifestyles (Matthew 23:1ff; John 4:17-18,22), Peter was not (1 Peter 4:3), Paul was not (1 Corinthians 6:9-10), John was not (Revelation 2:20-22), and New Testament Christians were not (1 Cor. 5:1-13; Ephesians 5:11).

### **Intolerant But Gentle**

So, what about “toleration” today? A Christian needs to be intolerant of all that is contrary to God’s word, but be gentle in his or her demeanor while being intolerant (1 Peter 3:15). - *Chris Reeves*

## Sentence Sermons

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- When a person cries “tolerance” loudly, he or she is likely to be intolerant.
- It is easier to preach a sermon than to live a sermon.
- Be fishers of men. You catch them and God will clean them.
- He who angers you, controls you.
- You can try to get rid of a person you don’t like, or you could simply pray for them.

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# THE WARFIELD BULLETIN

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For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war according to the flesh, for the weapons of our warfare are not of the flesh, but divinely powerful for the destruction of fortresses.  
- 2 Corinthians 10:3-4 -

# The Christian and Tolerance

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“Not long ago, the word 'tolerance' meant 'bearing or putting up with someone or something not especially liked'. However, now the word has been redefined to 'all values, all beliefs, all lifestyles, all truth claims are equal'. Denying this makes a person 'intolerant', and thus worthy of contempt.”

“The new definition of 'tolerance' makes the Christian claims to exclusivity 'intolerant', which supposedly justifies much of the anti-Christianity in the media and the education system.”

“But this argument is glaringly illogical and self-refuting. That is, if these 'tolerance' advocates reject Christianity, then they are not treating this belief as 'equal'. So, in practice, to paraphrase George Orwell in *Animal Farm*, all beliefs are equal, but some beliefs are more equal than others. The result is extreme intolerance towards Christianity from people who talk so much about tolerating all views. In short, they are intolerant of intolerance, so logically they should be intolerant of themselves!”

“There is a great danger lurking in the general philosophy of tolerance. In Australia, a group formed and called itself Toleration, which many Christians viewed as a harmless organization with a worthy cause. Toleration's goal was to promote a tolerance of all religious ways, beliefs and doctrines. Their major theme was "We've

got to stop being intolerant of other people's beliefs. Everyone should have a right to his or her own opinion on any matter.”

“Eventually the organization issued a promotional leaflet espousing this “tolerance” of all beliefs. What did the very first page contain but a detailed list of all the things they were *against!* They said they were for tolerance of all beliefs, yet they were *in-tolerant* of the teaching of creation and the absolutes of Christianity.”

“People who teach a tolerance of all beliefs almost invariably oppose Christianity. They cannot tolerate Christians saying, "Here's what's right and here's what's wrong. God says it. And so that is final." They reply, Oh, no. We can't tolerate that. We've got to tolerate *all* beliefs.”

“What are they really doing? They are being intolerant of the absolutes of Christianity, because the absolutes of Christianity oppose a philosophy that says, "Everything can be done in accord with one's own opinion." It is not difficult to see that this popular philosophy is an anti-biblical way of thinking - so dangerous, in fact, that it could one day lead to the outlawing of Christianity.”

Note: The above quotes were written by Josh McDowell and excerpted from his article in *Focus on the Family* magazine (<http://www.christiananswers.net/q-eden/tolerance.html>).

## Our Toleration-Promoting Society

So, what is tolerance? By definition, tolerance means, “tolerating others’ views, beliefs, practices; free from bigotry or prejudice.” We are told by our society to be tolerant, but people who often cry “tolerance” are themselves intolerant of others, especially Christians. We are told by our society to be tolerant at all times (except those times when a person doesn’t like what Christians are saying). We are told by our society to be tolerate of all religions and all life-styles (except Christianity and the lifestyle that it promotes in the New Testament). Such blatant hypocrisy!

## Does the New Testament Teach Tolerance?

The New Testament teaches that a Christian is to exercise “forbearance,” “moderation,” or “patience”. We are to “bear with” or “endure” others (Greek *anechomai*; see 1 Corinthians 4:12; Ephesians 4:2; Colossians 3:13; 2 Thessalonians 1:4). We are to be “gentle” with others (Greek *epieikes*; see Philippians 4:5; 1 Timothy 3:3; Titus 3:2; James 3:17).

When a Christian exercises “forbearance”, he or she is patient with the sinner, but does not condone or encourage the sin. We are also told that God is “forbearing” (Greek *anochē*, *holding*