

CULTURE CLASH

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Tolerance or Intolerance
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Intolerance has become a buzz word in our culture today. Tolerance used to mean you disagreed with someone but did so in a respectful way. But in the last 25 years, that definition has begun to shift—these days, you're considered intolerant if you hold to certain beliefs. So, how should we treat people we disagree with?

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. If someone approached you after church and asked you why you believe in Jesus Christ, what would you say? How prepared do you feel to answer that question?
2. Think about some of the topics that typically cause a lot of disagreement between people. How do you tend to treat people with whom you disagree? How can your tone affect a situation like this? What results would a critical/harsh tone bring out vs. a gentle/respectful tone?
3. Read Colossians 4:5-6. How do you think other people view you? Do they see Christ through your words and actions?
4. Jason said in his message, "If you don't hold to biblical convictions, then there will be nothing for other people to follow. But, if you don't do so with gentleness and respect, they won't want to follow." How can you personally work on staying true to what the Bible tells us while still being gentle and respectful when others disagree?

CHALLENGE

This week, spend some time researching why you believe what you believe. Pick up a copy of one of Lee Strobel's books, "Case for Christ" or "Case for Faith." Make sure you're prepared to answer when someone someday asks you about what you believe.

COMMIT TO MEMORY

Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have. But do this with gentleness and respect.

1 Peter 3:15