

TOLERANCE—FAMILY, NATION, CHURCH...

The idea of tolerance is noble in the best of times. The word originally meant “the ability to bear pain,” but now carries forward the notion of enduring (bearing with) the existence of opinions or behavior that one does not necessarily agree with. This has allowed people to come here (the United States) and start new lives regardless of their past or earlier circumstances. The colonies eventually saw the need for tolerance of beliefs for immigrants.

However, tolerance today is taking on dimensions that could not have been anticipated by those who screamed so vehemently for the acceptance of “new ideas” 50 years ago. Now we have the clarion call for tolerance with respect to what constitutes/defines a family. In the Bible God gave us the model for the family in the early chapters of Genesis. When he made man and then created woman, He set in motion the nucleus for the first family. The kernel of the family as God originally created it consisted of a man, a woman, and their children. Now with the same-sex marriage proponents there is a major push to redefine what a family is (or should) be. These “haters of God” want not only the “right” to sin; they want to eliminate the idea of sin. In order to eliminate the idea of sin, they must remove God’s influence.

For this cause God gave them up unto vile affections: for even their women did change the natural use into that which is against nature: And likewise also the men, leaving the natural use of the woman, burned in their lust one toward another; men with men working that which is unseemly (Rom. 1:26–27, KJV).

If one is not tolerant of sin, he might be labeled a bigot, or worse. One is ostracized because of standing for what is right. These people defiantly want to rid the nation of God’s standards.

An ironic twist to this situation is revealed in the way that our nation is being asked to be tolerant of those (a religion) whose ultimate aim could be to destroy us—if a certain reading of their “holy book” is correct. This book denounces any not agreeing with or following the dictates of their “messenger.” We are all heathen (infidels) in their sight. Various attempts are being made throughout the country to use our Constitution to worm their way into the innermost areas of our society—schools only for their people, dress codes, and neighborhood laws that strip away some of our basic human (and civil) rights. If we remain non-chalant, our nation will implode.

Tolerance is also a hydra in the church. It has been eating away at the very foundations established by God’s Word through a mendacious offensive that allows (tells) people to accept that we must have unity rather than discord or division. This tolerance finds rebuke offensive. This tolerance finds “contending for the faith” offensive. This tolerance does not want anyone to oppose associations with false teachers (how similar to the same-sex supporters) because that will cause discord. Examples of this can be seen in making no distinctions between brethren who fellowship with liberals and false teachers one week, as long as they show up at their summer camp the next. The smell of this “movement” reminds me of rancid meat.

Even more disturbing is the reluctance even to attempt to point out sin in the brotherhood by these people any more. Oh, they will address sin in the world, but it is mostly a big cheerleading session. It seems pretty clear that a lot of the New Testament epistles dealt with false teaching and false teachers, but these people cannot garner the nerve to withstand one to the face because it would simply reveal an already putrid hypocrisy.

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