

Religious Tolerance

- What are we talking about when we say “religious tolerance?” What is common today?
 - don’t condemn the beliefs of anyone
 - you believe what you want to believe and I’ll do the same
 - agreeing to disagree
- Questions to ponder...
- How do you think religious tolerance is affecting the world/Christianity as a whole? Is it positive or negative?
 - it produces a wide variety of beliefs; many believe this to be ok
- Do I have the right to say if someone else’s beliefs are wrong? Should I do anything about someone else’s beliefs?
 - we can’t control what others do, but we can speak out and pray for others (not with pride, of course)
 - there’s no need to be ashamed about spreading the Truth of God’s Word; there’s nothing wrong with sharing what God has done or revealed to us
- How do I know who/what is right/wrong?
 - one tip: judge the fruits of the person (Matthew 7:15-17); what you see of a person comes from what is in their heart
- What does the Bible say? What does God want?
 - these are a few of my thoughts according to the Bible
 - there is only 1 acceptable doctrine that we are expected to measure up to (II John 1:9-10; John 14:6-only one way to make it to heaven and it’s through Jesus)
 - having many “doctrines” is not good; whenever doctrines was mentioned in plural in the Bible, it was not in a good context: Matthew 15:9, Mark 7:7, Colossians 2:22, I Timothy 4:1, Hebrews 13:9
 - God wants His people to be in unity concerning His doctrine (Philippians 1:27, Ephesians 4:3) and to strive together for the faith
- Now what?
 - religious tolerance ultimately creates confusion about who or what is right (in general) and works against the desired unity of God’s people
 - individually, we must pray and study the Bible in order for God to

reveal His Truth to us (what is His doctrine?); this is one of the main purposes of our weekly Bible studies

- we must pray for boldness to stand for the Truth once we know it (there comes a time to speak up)
- we can also feel free to share what God has revealed to us with others (Mark 16:15- the "Great Commission"); there is no need to be ashamed; everyone can play a part in spreading the Gospel
- we see the condition of the world as a whole, but we can't control what everyone else does; however, we can try to make a difference in our circle of influence