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Tolerance – Christians are #1? - Study Guide

Section 1

Read 1st Peter 3:15-16

Pick out as many examples of attitude, preference, and posture in this passage as possible.

Section 2

Do you hold any personal convictions that people today might label “intolerant?” Share one and tell why people see that as intolerant.

Listen to the 5 minute podcast called “Tolerance – Christians are #1?” at the website OverflowShow.com
Insights drawn from the book TRUE FOR YOU, BUT NOT FOR ME by Paul Copan, Bethany House Publishers.

Section 3

What did you think? What stood out to you as you listened?

Describe in just a few sentences the popular definition of tolerance today and whether you would call it true or false tolerance.

Describe true tolerance in a sentence or two:

(If needed) Why is today’s understanding of tolerance not really tolerant? Contrast that with true tolerance.

How is false tolerance self-contradicting? Hypocritical?

What are good ways to answer someone when they say, “You’re intolerant for saying that!”

Is it noble and kind for tolerant people to insist that all ideas are equal? Why or why not?

What does it say about a person for her to have firm opinions on a matter? Is she intolerant? If not, then what?

Describe a Christian’s best overall posture toward someone who disagrees with him or calls him wrong.

How does this discussion about tolerance affect your self-image as a Christian in the marketplace of ideas and your willingness to move toward non-Christians with the gospel?

Section 4

What are some ways we could interject these principles this week as we interact with a non-believer?

Suggestion: Share with a non-Christian that your small group was discussing tolerance. Ask her these questions:

- 1) *How important is tolerance to you*
- 2) *What are some examples you see in society today that are examples of intolerance.*
- 3) *What are some things that we should not be tolerant of in our society?*
- 4) *Would you say then that tolerance is a good thing but that there is a limit to it?*

OverflowShow highly recommends the book TRUE FOR YOU, BUT NOT FOR ME by Paul Copan, from Bethany House Publishers.

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