

Just Thinking Apologetics

One of the charges leveled at Christianity is that of intolerance. Some see Christianity as being intolerant by saying, “Salvation is found only in Jesus.” What exactly does it mean to be tolerant? The *American Heritage Dictionary* defines tolerance as “respecting the nature, beliefs, or behaviors of others.”

There are three points that Christians need to realize concerning tolerance. First, they need to realize that all people are created in the image of God (Gen. 1:26-27, 9:5-6, James 3:9-10). Second, Individuals have the right to think as they wish, even if there thinking is illogical or promotes immorality. However, Christians maintain that certain issues need to be debated, especially those views that are morally wrong, without thwarting the right of an individual to think as they wish. Third, Christians should tolerate the practices of others as long as they are not illegal or immoral. Christians cannot tolerate sin, but they must love the sinner. Jesus taught us much on tolerance, but he was unwilling to let the sinner off the hook (John 8:11).

More clarification needs to be made about tolerance. Tolerance does not mean disagreement, for it assumes disagreement already. Although people’s views should be respected, it does not mean that a person’s view has equal validity, merit, or truth. Greg Koukl argues that, “To say that some views are false, immoral, or just plain silly does not violate any meaningful standard of tolerance.”

This Wednesday night’s (7:00PM) discussion will be on, “Would an all loving God condemn anyone to Hell?” and on Sunday evening (6:00 PM) the topic of discussion will be on, “Where does God come from?”