

The TRUTH about TOLERANCE



by Robert Hatfield

Tolerance rings throughout our land. It is preached from the president's podium at the White House to the picket line's posters on city streets. Meanwhile Christians, trying to uphold Biblical values, are labeled intolerant and unloving. They are already experiencing pressure from the government and the media to "tolerate" the "homosexual lifestyle." In some cases, Christians are even experiencing persecution from law enforcement (*yes, in the United States!*).

The doctrine of tolerance simply does not square with New Testament values. Webster's dictionary says that to tolerate is "to put up with" some belief or practice with which one does not agree. Christians do not discriminate against anyone because "God is no respecter of persons" (Acts 10:34). Christians realize that every man ought "not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think" (Rom. 12:3). It should not be a matter of "putting up with" someone, but rather a matter of loving one another ... as God loves us (1 John 4:11)!

But true love does not overlook sin. Sexists and racists ought to repent of the sin of discrimination, and they ought to be taught Biblical love. For that matter, no sinful activity should be tolerated (whether racism, sexism, homosexuality, or any other sin). Has our nation become so haughty to think that it can rewrite the Law of God to fit its own agenda? Despite the title as "the land of the free," the United States should realize that true freedom comes only from obedience to the truth (John 8:32).

Despite the preaching of God's Word, the message of tolerance is preached in our nation. Elizabeth Bauchner, a columnist for *Teaching Tolerance* (tolerance.org), says that "people can still believe [homosexuality is] a sin if they want to, but that shouldn't have anything to do with someone else's rights." Bauchner goes on to advocate the attendance of children to homosexual marriage ceremonies because, "kids who grow up attending gay weddings will see them as normal."

On May 26, 2009, the Alameda County Board of Education (California) approved a mandatory homosexual curriculum for children as young as five years old. Parents will not be allowed to remove their children from the lessons.

President Obama announced on Tuesday, June 1 that June is now "Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender Pride Month." The president added, "I call upon the people of the United States to turn back discrimination and prejudice everywhere it exists."

However, advocates of the tolerance doctrine are not very tolerant themselves. On Thursday, May 28, 2009, Fox News ran a story about a couple who were ordered by San Diego county police to stop holding a Bible study within their home. The officer claimed that the couple needed a permit (which costs several thousand dollars) to hold religious meetings in their own home. The couple's attorney said, "The county asked, 'Do you have a regular meeting in your home?' She said, 'Yes.' 'Do you say amen?' 'Yes.' 'Do you pray?' 'Yes.' 'Do you praise the Lord?' 'Yes.'" Following this dialogue, the county notified the couple that the small Bible study, averaging 15 people, was in violation of County regulations.

It is time to wake up from apathy and "tolerance" and uphold the truth of God's Word. What will our nation reap later from the seeds being sown today? "Be not deceived; God is not mocked: for whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap" (Gal. 6:7).

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