

Growth Group Discussion Questions—Oct. 11-17

1. Think about challenges you have faced at school, at work, in sports, etc. that involved tolerance on your behalf. What have you personally been confronted with – and how did you deal with it?

2. In Leviticus 11, God provided rules as to what His people the Israelites were permitted to eat. How do you think He expected them to respond?

But what if one of them was invited to eat with an important non-Israelite who wasn't under these rules and didn't have these foods?

3. Read Daniel 1:3-15: What was Daniel asked to do (tolerate)?

What was the problem with this request?

What was the outcome?

4. Read Romans 12:1-2: Write some areas of your life (work, neighbors, relatives) below where you might be tempted to conform to (tolerate) the beliefs or behaviors of others that transgress what the Bible teaches us.

What is the key to resisting this temptation?

5. In John 18:37-38, Pilate asked the profound question, "What is truth?" Jesus response was clear – He testified to the truth, He is the truth; and those that listen to Him - listen to the truth. How can you expose yourself to this truth?

6. Answer these questions for yourself.

- How are you doing in your relationship with Jesus?

If your answer falls short of where you think it should be, what is your plan to improve it?

- Are you tolerating the ways of the world too much?

If so, what is your plan to change this?

- Are you tolerating sin in your life? If so, what is your plan to deal with this?

Eight Warnings from the Book of Revelation The Age Of Tolerance

A. An Ordinary City.

B. A Blue Collar Town.

C. A Union Card Carrying Place.

D. A Spiritually Corrupt Culture.

Apollo = the son of the great Greek god Zeus

I. The Announcement

These are the words of the Son of God, whose eyes are like blazing fire and whose feet are like burnished bronze.

Revelation 2:18

II. The Affirmation

I know your deeds, your love and faith, your service and perseverance, and that you are now doing more than you did at first.

Revelation 2:19

Live such good lives among the pagans that, though they accuse you of doing wrong, they may see your good deeds and glorify God on the day of his visit.

1 Peter 2:12

III. The Accusation

Nevertheless, I have this against you: You tolerate that woman Jezebel, who calls herself a prophetess. By her teaching she misleads my servants into sexual immorality and the eating of food sacrificed to idols.

Revelation 2:20

Prophetess = proclaiming that their teaching was a direct message from God

IV. The Accountability

I have given her time to repent of her immorality, but she is unwilling. So I will cast her on a bed of suffering, and I will make those who commit adultery with her suffer intensely, unless they repent of her ways. I will strike her children dead.

Revelation 2:21 -23

A. The Soft Hand of God's Discipline

Discipline = to teach or instruct

The Lord is slow to anger, abounding in love and forgiving sin and rebellion.

Numbers 14:18

The Lord is slow to anger and great in power.

Nahum 1:3

B. The Strong Hand of God's Discipline

... your hand had come down upon me. Because of your wrath there is no health in my body; my bones have no soundness because of my sin. My guilt has overwhelmed me like a burden too heavy to bear. My wounds fester and are loathsome ... I am bowed down and brought very low; all day long I go about mourning. My back is filled with searing pain; there is no health in my body. I am feeble and utterly crushed; I groan in anguish of heart.

Psalms 38:2 - 8

1. The only motivation for the Lord's discipline is love.

The Lord disciplines those he loves.

Hebrews 12:6

2. The only goal of the Lord's discipline is our benefit.

No discipline seems pleasant at the time, but painful. Later on, however, it produces a harvest of righteousness and peace for those who have been trained by it.

Hebrews 12:11

Then all the churches will know that I am he who searches hearts and minds, and I will repay each of you according to your deeds.

Revelation 2:23

V. The Admonition

Hold on to what you have until I come. To him who overcomes and does my will to the end, I will give authority over the nations – 'He will rule them with an iron scepter: he will dash them to pieces like pottery' – just as I have received authority from my Father. I will also give him the morning star.

Revelation 2:25 -28

1. First Promise: To rule in authority with Jesus over the nations.

2. Second Promise: To experience a relationship with Jesus the Morning Star.

For it is time for judgment to begin with the family of God; and it begins with us ...

1 Peter 4:17

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