

Is Spiritual Tolerance a Sin?

You ask if Believers are supposed to be tolerant. You might be surprised to find that the word tolerant is not a fruit of the Ruwach/Spirit. According to Galatians 5 the fruit of the Ruwach/Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self control. No mention of tolerance. Yet the way you hear the world talk, you would think tolerance is the most important virtue people should have in their lives.

If you mean tolerance in the sense of respecting people's opinion even if it differs from mine, of course, I respect people's right to hold to their opinions. That is their right. However, tolerance as used in scriptures means to allow sin and evil to exist without doing anything to stop it. Look at what the Prophet Habakkuk said about YaHuWaH, "Your eyes are too pure to look on evil; you cannot tolerate wrong" (Hab 1:13).

Isn't that interesting? YaHuWaH "cannot tolerate wrong." Yet tolerance is the mantra of the world. They teach tolerance. They think this is what the world lacks. They especially accuse the assembly of not practicing tolerance. However, YaHuWaH Himself is not "tolerant." If He was tolerant then He would not speedily punish evil. Ecc 8:11 Because sentence against an evil work is not executed speedily, therefore the heart of the sons of men is fully set in them to do evil.

Do you really want a judge to be tolerant? He smiles at rapists and says, "I don't judge you." He grins at molesters and says, "People just don't understand your feelings." Of course you would be horrified and offended that a judge would tolerate crime. Yet, people get this idea that YaHuWaH tolerates wrong. He does not!

We are living in a time of hyper-tolerance. The world teaches that not only is it good to tolerate adultery, abortion, divorce, fornication, homosexuality, sorcery, idolatry, and dishonesty, it is often considered morally courageous.

Since the world is Satan's kingdom, it only makes sense that he would convince people they should tolerate what YaHuWaH does not. What does not make sense is that Some Believers are adopting this idea of tolerance.

Not too long ago, the verse most believers knew and quoted was, For YaHuWaH so loved the world Today, the verse most believers know is, judge not lest you be judged. Not too long ago believers knew where to find John 3:16 and the context in which it was written. Today, believers who quote judge not lest you be judged don't have a clue where it can be found nor the context in which it was written.

Not only is it ignorant to quote this verse out of context, it also proves a believer can be motivated to please the world by adopting and even promoting this idea of tolerance.

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Definitions

“Tolerance” is defined as, “the capacity for or practice of recognizing and respecting the opinions, practices, or behavior of others” (“The American Heritage Dictionary,” p. 1275). In other words, if you have the ability to respect others’ opinions, practices or habits, and behavior, you are by definition tolerant. And such tolerance, as it has been defined and traditionally understood, is a virtue.

But that is not how tolerance is taught and understood today. By adding the word “sin” to the definition, today’s tolerance has become something which is detrimental rather than helpful. It is not simply the opinions of others on politics, for example, which we are supposed to tolerate, but their opinions on what is or is not sin. Tolerance isn’t limited to someone’s habit of, say, nail biting but applies to their sinful habits as well. Today, it is not only good to respect different behavior but sinful behavior as well. This identifies the foundational problem with this new understanding of tolerance. It puts the power to determine right or wrong in the hands of people rather than YaHuWaH, when, in fact, it is YaHuWaH who decides what is right and wrong (Deuteronomy 5:32-33).

Deu 5:32 Ye shall observe to do therefore as YaHuWaH your Aluhym hath commanded you: ye shall not turn aside to the right hand or to the left.

Deu 5:33 Ye shall walk in all the ways which YaHuWaH your Aluhym hath commanded you, that ye may live, and that it may be well with you, and that ye may prolong your days in the land which ye shall possess.

Truth

Acceptance, belief, and practice of today’s view of tolerance requires a rejection of truth. Truth is the way things actually are. To violate the way things are is disastrous. For example, if it’s true that jumping off the Sears Tower will kill you, then it can’t be true that jumping off the Sears Tower will not kill you. Therefore, it is disastrous to tolerate jumping off the Sears Tower. YaHuWaH said there are certain Laws/Tuwrah rules and standards which are true for everyone. If there are no rules or standards which apply without exception to everyone, then everyone gets to decide for himself the rules which apply and truth is lost. For the majority of Christians, this is already happening and some who call themselves Believers.

The reason they do not believe in absolute truth is because they do believe in tolerance. If morality is independent and varies with the individual, then the possibility for justice and reason are lost. To those who accept tolerance and thereby reject truth, Charles Finney claims, “there is no reasoning with such a one”

Effects

Tolerance has a negative effect on many aspects of the spiritual life of a believer.

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Amanuwal HaMashyach

It affects his relationship to Amanuwal HaMashyach, who is Truth (John 14:6), and yet truth and tolerance cannot co-exist.

Scripture

It affects your study and understanding of YaHuWaH's Word, which is truth (John 17:17).

Love

It affects our ability to love because love rejoices with the truth (1 Corinthians 13:6).

Worship

It affects our ability to worship. Amanuwal HaMashyach says, ... true worshippers shall worship the Father in Ruwach (spirit) and truth; for such people the Father seeks to be His worshippers. YaHuWaH is spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in Ruwach (Spirit) and truth (John 4:23-24).

Freedom

Finally, adherence to tolerance affects our freedom. Amanuwal HaMashyach said, everyone who commits sin is the slave of sin (John 8:34). Not only is it right to adhere to truth, it produces freedom; If you abide in My word, then you are truly disciples of Mine; and you shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free (John 8:31-32). After reading these verses, one might ask, Why would a believer practice or endorse such an unbiblical view which destroys truth? Romans 2:8 reveals the answer. Those who do not obey the truth, Sha'ul (Paul) says, are selfishly ambitious.

Bible

With the exception of parallel passages, the word “tolerance” appears in only three places in the Bible. In none of these passages does it say or even suggest that we are to tolerate sin. Rather, every place where the word is mentioned, it’s done in reference to the condemnation of sin.

Good News

In the two good news accounts, Amanuwal HaMashyach compares the sin of one group of people to the sin of another. With reference to His disciples, Amanuwal HaMashyach says, And whoever does not receive you, nor heed your words, as you go out of that house or that city, shake off the dust of your feet. Truly I say to you, it will be more tolerable for the land of Sodom and Gomorrah in the day of judgment, than for that city (Matthew 10:14-15). The sin of both will not be tolerated. Actually, Amanuwal HaMashyach is describing His degree of intolerance. With reference to the cities of Galilee, Amanuwal HaMashyach says, Woe to you, Chorazin! Woe to you, Bethsaida! For if the miracles had occurred in Tyre and Sidon which occurred in you, they would have repented long ago in sackcloth and ashes. Nevertheless I say to you that it

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shall be more tolerable for the land of Sodom in the day of judgment, than for you (Matthew 11:20-24). In comparing the sin of one city to another, Amanuwal HaMashyach, again, is not describing His tolerance of sin, rather He is emphasizing His degree of intolerance.

Revelation

Revelation 2:20 is the only other place tolerance is mentioned in the Bible. In His message to the believers in Thyatira, Christ says, I know your deeds, and your love and faith and service and perseverance, and that your deeds of late are greater than at first. But I have this against you, that you tolerate the woman Jezebel, who calls herself a prophetess, and she teaches and leads My bond-servants astray, so that they commit acts of immorality and eat things sacrificed to idols (Revelation 2:19-20).

The Greek word which is translated “tolerate” in verse 20 is *aphiemi*, which means “to send away, leave alone, or permit.” It is here where we can see exactly what is going on within Christianity and still some Believers today. Believers do good deeds, they love one another, they have faith and are growing in HaMashyach. Yet rather than judge one another, which is commanded (Matthew 18:15-17), we tolerate sin. Tolerance of sin is sin. If Amanuwal HaMashyach were to critique believers today, He might say, I have this against you, that you “send away” and/or “leave alone” sinners rather than confronting them in their sin. You permit sin for the cause of tolerance for Friendship or to be in their FB Groups, thus endorsing the very thing you claim to hate. Rather, “these are the things which you should do: speak the truth to one another; judge with truth and ... let none of you devise evil in your heart ... and do not love perjury; for all these are what I hate,” declares YaHuWaH (Zechariah 8:16-17).

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