

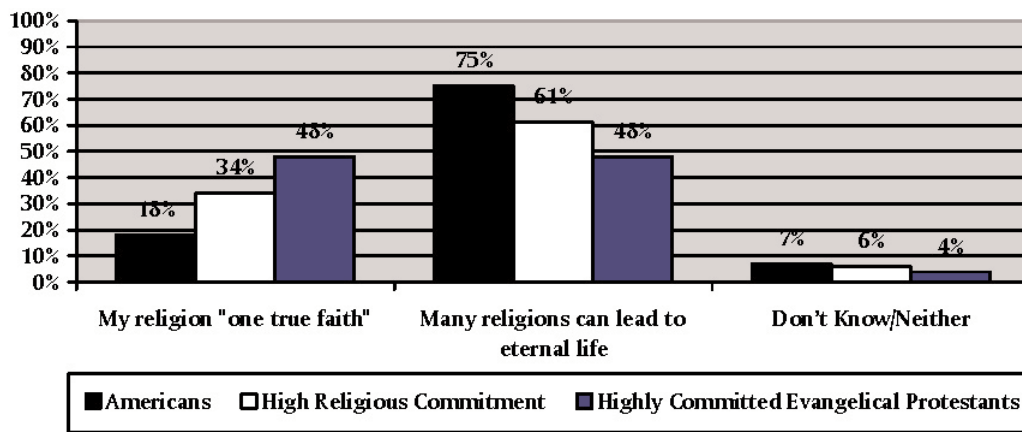
FASTFACTS

TOLERANCE



We are in a transitional period where there are two distinct definitions of tolerance: one known by parents, the other by kids. What is being taught to our kids is totally different from what is in your mind as a parent. Traditional tolerance (as we know it) is now referred to as negative tolerance. This is defined as “respecting others beliefs and practices without sharing them,” or “to bear or put up with something not especially liked.” The new tolerance is called positive tolerance, which says this: *every single individual’s beliefs, values, lifestyle, and truth claims are equal.*

—Josh McDowell



(participant categorizations are self-identified)

Source: Pew Research Center for the People & the Press, “Americans Struggle With Religion’s Role at Home and Abroad,” March 20, 2002.

“Tolerance is the virtue of those who believe in nothing. Rather than stand up for what is right or wrong, the voice of tolerance says we should just let everyone be, that we’ll better understand each other if we accept them as they are.”

—Ryan Dobson
Be Intolerant. Multnomah Publishers (2003). p. 36.

Scripture Is Clear:

Jesus said to him, “I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me.”

—John 14:6 (NKJV)

Enter by the narrow gate; for wide is the gate and broad is the way that leads to destruction, and there are many who go in by it. Because narrow is the gate and difficult is the way which leads to life, and there are few who find it.

—Matthew 7:13-14 (NKJV)

Abhor what is evil. Cling to what is good.

—Romans 12:9 (NKJV)

If the world hates you, you know that it hated Me before it hated you. If you were of the world, the world would love its own. Yet because you are not of the world, but I chose you out of the world, therefore the world hates you.

—John 15:18-19 (NKJV)

“. . . [T]ruth cannot be sacrificed at the altar of a pretended tolerance. . . . Some beliefs are false, and we know them to be false. So it does no good to put a halo on the notion of tolerance as if everything could be equally true.”

—Ravi Zacharias
Jesus Among Other Gods. Thomas Nelson (2002).

So Is the United Nations:

“Tolerance . . . involves the rejection of dogmatism and absolutism.”

—United Nations’ “Declaration of Principles on Tolerance,” October 25-November 16, 1995.

Does “tolerance” impact daily life in America?
No doubt about it!



City Hall “Tolerance”

In 2003, **West Palm Beach, Florida**, mayor Lois Frankel agreed to fly the gay flag over City Hall claiming she “didn’t even give it a second thought” because one of her goals as mayor is “that all these diverse people be able to live and work and play together . . .”

In neighboring **Palm Beach**, city officials initially refused to add a nativity scene to a prominent public display that featured Jewish menorahs. A Palm Beach attorney claimed that the menorah is “neutralized” and “is not strictly a religious symbol” when displayed along with “secular” Christmas trees.

Meanwhile, in **Houston, Texas**, a Bible display which has been situated on the grounds of the Harris County Courthouse since 1956 has led to a lawsuit from the ACLU because it prompts the question: “What about all the other religions?”

Ventura, California, sold a cross that has overlooked the city since 1941 because an atheist claims the cross demonstrates “an outrageous lack of sensitivity.”

The Nevada Department of Transportation has agreed to remove a cross erected along a highway in **Reno** to memorialize the murder of nine-year-old Krystal Steadman, because it is an “irritant.”

“Tolerance” 101

Taxpayer-funded **University of Michigan** offers “How to be Gay: Male Homosexuality and Initiation,” a class that “examine[s] the general topic of the role that initiation plays in the formation of gay male identity.”

Meanwhile, the **Dearborn, Michigan** School District has dropped a ten-week adult education course billed as an introduction to Christianity because the ACLU says it violates the mythical “separation between church and state.”

Still, the **Byron Union School**

District (California) uses “Islam simulation” materials in seventh grade world history classes, which call for students to adopt a Muslim name, wear a robe, stage their own jihad, and learn the fundamental tenets of Islam. Apparently, there is nothing wrong with a public school “introduction to Islam.”

New York City schools decorated for the holidays with menorahs and crescents. Nativity scenes were prohibited because the idea that they are “a historically accurate representation of an event with secular significance is wholly disingenuous.”

“Tolerance” Means Freedom of Speech?

After a student expressed his opposition to the homosexual agenda in a **University of North Carolina** literature class, the professor sent a class-wide e-mail condemning his thoughts as “hate speech” and referred to the student as a “white, heterosexual, Christian male.” She later apologized.

In 2001, Albert Buonnano provided his **Colorado** employer with his own written statement promising to not discriminate against homosexuals. AT&T fired Buonnano because he refused to sign their document—which included a promise to “value” all forms of sexual orientation.

Original source material available from www.reclaimamerica.org.

“Politically correct people argue that they are calling for a philosophy of inclusion. They are not thought police, they say; they are only concerned with correcting centuries of unfairness. . . . [T]he effect of this movement has been to silence or remove . . . those who differ from the politically correct position. If a professor opposes racially based admissions policies, he is a racist. If a student holds religious convictions concerning homosexuality, she is a homophobic. The issue . . . goes beyond mere tolerance; the goal of this movement is to remove opposition to the plans of the radical left.”

—Don Closson

“Politically Correct Education,” Probe Ministries, 1992.

“Tolerance” Goes to the Movies

Saving Private Ryan: “This is a marvelous movie, with superb things throughout. . . . After all the years of meaningless movie violence, [Spielberg] wants us to feel some sort of pain. There is anger here, directed at the triviality of other movies. The old John Wayne and Dana Andrews war pictures made death clean and noble; this one make it squalid and bloody—and noble.”

—David Denby, “Heroic Proportions.” *New York Magazine*. July 27, 1998.

The Passion of The Christ: “. . . a sickening death trip, a grimly unilluminating procession of treachery, beatings, blood, and agony. . . . Gibson is so thoroughly fixated on the scourging and crushing of Christ, and so meagerly involved in the spiritual meanings of the final hours, that he falls in danger of altering Jesus’ message of love into one of hate.”

—David Denby, “Nailed.” *The New Yorker*. March 3, 2004.

What Is the Solution?

True compassionate love that seeks to provide for and protect another person’s health, happiness, and spiritual growth could not comply with the cultural call: “If you love me, you’ll endorse my behavior.” Because real love—true love—grieves over the inevitable results of wrong behavior.

—Josh McDowell, *The New Tolerance*. Tyndale House Publishers (1998). p. 92.

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