

Abundant Life Church
Pastor Steve Finton
April 23, 2017

Series: **#JesusMakesHeadlines**
Title: **Was Jesus Intolerant?**

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Does God just tolerate us?

How long would you stay around people who only tolerated you?

Jesus did not tolerate the misuse of the Temple of God

Malachi 3:1-2

“Behold, I am going to send My messenger, and he will clear the way before Me. And the Lord, whom you seek, will suddenly come to His temple; and the messenger of the covenant, in whom you delight, behold, He is coming,” says the Lord of hosts. “But who can endure the day of His coming? And who can stand when He appears? For He is like a refiner's fire...”

Mark 11:15-18

When Jesus returned to Jerusalem, he went into the Temple and began to throw out those who were buying and selling there. He turned over the tables of those who were exchanging different kinds of money, and he upset the benches of those who were selling doves. 16 Jesus refused to allow anyone to carry goods through the Temple courts. 17 Then he taught the people, saying, “It is written in the Scriptures, ‘My Temple will be called a house for prayer for people from all nations.’ But you are changing God’s house into a ‘hideout for robbers.’” 18 The leading priests and the teachers of the law heard all this and began trying to find a way to kill Jesus.

Jesus did not tolerate religious leaders!

Hebrews 13:17 (NLT)

Obey your spiritual leaders, and do what they say. Their work is to watch over your souls, and they are accountable to God. Give them reason to do this with joy and not with sorrow. That would certainly not be for your benefit.

John 4:39-42

Many of the Samaritans in that town believed in Jesus because of what the woman said: “He told me everything I ever did.” 40 When the Samaritans came to Jesus, they begged him to stay with them, so he stayed there two more days. 41 And many more believed because of the things he said. 42 They said to the woman, “First we believed in Jesus because of what you said, but now we believe because we heard him ourselves. We know that this man really is the Savior of the world.”

Jesus was easy on people and hard on sin!

Tolerance is passive

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Definition of Tolerance: To allow the existence, occurrence, or practice of something or someone that one does not necessarily like or agree with.

Philippians 2:4-7

Do not be interested only in your own life, but be interested in the lives of others. In your lives you must think and act like Christ Jesus. Christ himself was like God in everything. But he did not think that being equal with God was something to be used for his own benefit. But he gave up his place with God and made himself nothing. He was born as a man and became like a servant.

Jesus was greater than tolerant!

Ecclesiastes 6:12

People have only a few useless days of life on the earth; their short life passes like a shadow. Who knows what is best for them while they live?

We live in an Age of Tolerance

Malachi 2:17

You have wearied the Lord with your words. Yet you say, "How have we wearied Him?" In that you say, "Everyone who does evil is good in the sight of the Lord, and He delights in them,"...

Should Christian's judge people?

Matthew 7:1-5

"Do not judge, or you too will be judged. 2 For in the same way you judge others, you will be judged, and with the measure you use, it will be measured to you. 3 "Why do you look at the speck of sawdust in your brother's eye and pay no attention to the plank in your own eye? 4 How can you say to your brother, 'Let me take the speck out of your eye,' when all the time there is a plank in your own eye? 5 You hypocrite, first take the plank out of your own eye, and then you will see clearly to remove the speck from your brother's eye.

Jesus was easy on people and hard on sin.

- Let's be easy on people
- We need to focus on removing the plank from our own eyes so we can see people like Jesus sees them.
- We should have the bedside manner of the great physician!

2 Peter 3:8-10 (NCV)

But do not forget this one thing, dear friends: To the Lord one day is as a thousand years, and a thousand years is as one day. 9 The Lord is not slow in doing what he promised—the way some people understand slowness. But God is being patient with

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you. He does not want anyone to be lost, but he wants all people to change their hearts and lives. 10 But the day of the Lord will come like a thief.