

# **A Message To Those Who Think We Should Be More Tolerant**

We receive feedback on our weekly articles that appear in this paper. Some of it is positive; some negative. The negative ones usually condemn us for condemning others, a hypocritical action (cf. Rom. 2:1). They say we should be more tolerant of others, while they are being intolerant of us. For those who hold this attitude, please read on.

Jesus was intolerant. He said there is no way to go to heaven except through Him (Jn. 14:6; 8:24). He told the Jews their father was the devil (Jn. 8:44). He said those who follow the doctrines and commandments of men offer worthless worship and will be uprooted (Matt. 15:7-14).

The apostle Paul was intolerant. He said dividing up after men, as the denominations do, is carnal, sinful (1 Cor. 3:1-4). He wrote, "And have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness, but rather expose them" (Eph. 5:11). Of those advocating circumcision, he wrote, "Would that those who are troubling you would even mutilate themselves" (Gal. 5:12, NASB). [He was talking about a body part.]

Jesus, the apostles and prophets were all intolerant people. Why do you think they were killed? Was it for because they accepted people with different religious views? They were murdered because they were intolerant; they taught there is only one right way. The right way is the faith, the truth, that must be defended (Jude 3). Just as there is only ONE Spirit, Savior and Father, there is only ONE faith (Eph. 4:4-6). There are not many faiths, systems of belief, from which one can choose and be right with God.

Like the Lord, the apostles and prophets, we will endeavor to be intolerant of sin. The Spirit commanded, "Abhor what is evil. Cling to what is good" (Rom. 12:9). We will do our best to combat and destroy error, not tolerate it (2 Cor. 10:3-5).

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