

Beneath the Mask of Tolerance!

Matthew 16:5-6 (NLT) *Later, after they crossed to the other side of the lake, the disciples discovered they had forgotten to bring any bread. “Watch out!” Jesus warned them. “Beware of the yeast of the Pharisees and Sadducees.”*

I. Leaven as used in the Bible

Leaven of the Pharisees and Sadducees – Hypocrisy and False Teaching

Matthew 16:5-6 (NASB95) *And the disciples came to the other side of the sea, but they had forgotten to bring any bread. And Jesus said to them, “Watch out and beware of the leaven of the Pharisees and Sadducees.”*

Leaven of Herod – Worldly Influence or Compromise

Mark 8:15 (NASB95) *And He was giving orders to them, saying, “Watch out! Beware of the leaven of the Pharisees and the leaven of Herod.”*

Leaven as Moral Corruption in the Church

1 Corinthians 5:6-7 (AMP) *[About the condition of your church] your boasting is not good [indeed, it is most unseemly and entirely out of place]. Do you not know that [just] a little leaven will ferment the whole lump [of dough]? Purge (clean out) the old leaven that you may be fresh (new) dough, still uncontaminated [as you are], for Christ, our Passover [Lamb], has been sacrificed.*

Paul again alludes to the pride of the Corinthians. This time it was a pride that, rather than causing them to mourn over the shocking sin, **allowed them to tolerate such a sinner in their midst**. Paul presses his judgment of the case by saying that he is with them in spirit and has already passed judgment on the offending person.

1 Corinthians 5:12-13 (NLT) *It isn't my responsibility to judge outsiders, but it certainly is your responsibility to judge those inside the church who are sinning. God will judge those on the outside; but as the Scriptures say, “You must remove the evil person from among you.”*

II. Tolerance in the Bible?

Colossians 3:12-14 (NASB 2020) *So, as those who have been chosen of God, holy and beloved, put on a heart of compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness, and patience; bearing with one another, and forgiving each other, whoever has a complaint against anyone; just as the Lord forgave you, so must you do also. In addition to all these things put on love, which is the perfect bond of unity.*

Bearing: 430. ἀνέχω anechō; from 303 and 2192; endure, tolerate:

2 Timothy 4:1-2 (NASB 2020) *I solemnly exhort you in the presence of God and of Christ Jesus, who is to judge the living and the dead, and by His appearing and His kingdom: preach the word; be ready in season and out of season; correct, rebuke, and exhort, with great patience and instruction.*

What we have done in the church is confuse patience with tolerance!

Patience is the ability to endure hardship, delay, or provocation without losing composure. It involves waiting calmly and faithfully, even in the midst of difficulty or frustration.

Tolerance, in the context of biblical morality, refers to the acceptance—or at times, the passive allowance—of differing beliefs, opinions, or behaviors, even when they conflict with biblical truth. While patience reflects inner strength and trust in God, tolerance can risk compromising conviction for the sake of social harmony.

1 Corinthians 5:4-5 (NASB 2020) *In the name of our Lord Jesus, when you are assembled, and I with you in spirit, with the power of our Lord Jesus, I have decided to turn such a person over to Satan for the destruction of his body...*

III. Speaking the truth in love

Ephesians 4:14-15 (NASB 2020) *As a result, we are no longer to be children, tossed here and there by waves and carried about by every wind of doctrine, by the trickery of people, by craftiness in deceitful scheming; but speaking the truth in love, we are to grow up in all aspects into Him who is the head, that is, Christ.*

1 Corinthians 5:5 (NASB 2020) *I have decided to turn such a person over to Satan for the destruction of his body, so that his spirit may be saved on the day of the Lord.*

2 Corinthians 2:5 (NLT) *I am not overstating it when I say that the man who caused all the trouble hurt all of you more than he hurt me. Most of you opposed him, and that was punishment enough. Now, however, it is time to forgive and comfort him. Otherwise he may be overcome by discouragement.*

Galatians 6:1-2 (NASB 2020) Brothers and sisters, even if a person is caught in any wrongdoing, you who are spiritual are to restore such a person in a spirit of gentleness; each one looking to yourself, so that you are not tempted as well. Bear one another's burdens, and thereby fulfill the law of Christ.

Biblical Concept	Description	Tolerance?
Forbearance	Patience with others' flaws	✓ Yes
Grace and Mercy	Loving the sinner	✓ Yes
Civic Respect	Living peacefully with others	✓ Yes
Compromise with Sin	Approving evil or false teaching	✗ No
Truth in Love	Honest, loving correction	✓ Balanced