

April 17 & 18, 2021



The intolerance of tolerance

The Old Tolerance: I disapprove of what you are saying, but I will defend to the death your right to say it.

The New Tolerance: I disapprove of what you are saying, so you have no right to say it.

Is the gospel scandalous?

1 Corinthians 1:23 “*We preach Christ crucified, a stumbling block (Greek scandalizo) to Jews and foolishness to the Gentiles.*”

The political incorrectness of Jesus

John 14:6 Jesus answered, “*I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.*”

The political incorrectness of Peter

Acts 4:12 “*Salvation is found in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given to men by which we must be saved.*”

The political incorrectness of Paul

1 Timothy 2:5 *For there is one God and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus, 6 who gave himself as a ransom for all men . . .*

What is so unique about Jesus?

1. Only Jesus claimed to be God.
2. Only Jesus lived a sinless life.

The New Testament then records seven witnesses who declare and confirm the innocence of Jesus.

a. Judas Iscariot

Matthew 27:4 “*I have sinned,” he said, “for I have betrayed innocent blood.”*”

b. Pontius Pilate

Luke 23:14 “*... I have found no basis for your charges against him.”*”

c. Herod

Luke 23:15 “*Neither has Herod, for he sent him back to us . . .*”

d. Pontius Pilate's wife

Matthew 27:19 “*... Don't have anything to do with that innocent man, for I have suffered a great deal today in a dream because of him.”*”

e. The dying thief

Luke 23:41 “...but this man has done nothing wrong.”

f. Roman centurion

Luke 23:47 “...Surely this was a righteous man.”

g. The Roman guards

Matthew 27:54 *When the centurion and those with him who were guarding Jesus saw the earthquake and all that had happened, they were terrified, and exclaimed, "Surely he was the Son of God!"*

3. Only Jesus offered His life as a sacrifice.

4. Only Jesus rose from the dead.

5. Only Jesus offers forgiveness.

The ultimate act of tolerance is to love our enemies.

How do we present Christ in our times?

1 Peter 3:15 *But in your hearts set apart Christ as Lord. Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have. But do this with gentleness and respect,*

1. Live a life that demands an explanation

2. Speak with gentleness and respect