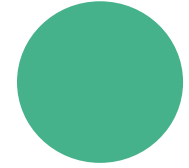
A red sphere is positioned at the top center, resting on a dark grey, multi-faceted geometric shape that resembles a stylized pyramid or a complex polygon. The background is a solid teal color. The text is centered over the geometric shape.

# THE BEAUTY OF **INT**TOLERANCE

## PART 5



# THE BEAUTY OF INTOLERANCE: The Loss of *Morality*



## All moral truth resides in and comes from God

- The reason we think fair and unfair, is because our Maker is a just God
- The reason love is a virtue, is because God is love
- The reason honesty is right and deceit is wrong, is because God is true
- The reason fidelity in marriage is honourable and infidelity is not, is because God is faithful.
- The reason chastity is moral and promiscuity is immoral is because God is pure

Everything that is moral, right, holy, good, and beautiful comes from the core nature of God. He does holy and right things because that is who he is- his actions come out of his core nature.



### Genesis 18:25

Far be it from you to do such a thing—to kill the righteous with the wicked, treating the righteous and the wicked alike. Far be it from you! Will not the Judge of all the earth do right?"

# THE BEAUTY OF INTOLERANCE: The Loss of Morality

## TRUTH PRAYER PSALM 119: 33-40

Teach me, Lord, the way of your decrees, that I may follow it to the end. Give me understanding, so that I may keep your law and obey it with all my heart. Direct me in the path of your commands, for there I find delight. Turn my heart toward your statutes and not toward selfish gain. Turn my eyes away from worthless things; Preserve my life according to your word. Fulfill your promise to your servant, so that you may be feared. Take away the disgrace I dread, for your laws are good. How I long for your precepts! In your righteousness preserve my life.

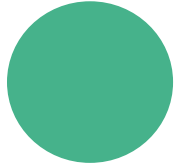


# THE BEAUTY OF INTOLERANCE: Does Love *Make* It Right?

**WHO WE ARE = WHAT WE DO**

**ACTIONS HAVE CONSEQUENCES**

**WHO WE ARE DOES NOT EQUAL WHAT WE DO**



# THE BEAUTY OF INTOLERANCE: Navigating Pluralism

## What culture teaches:

### 1. All religions are equally true and legitimate paths to God.

- Simple logic refutes this claim. The law of noncontradiction says opposite ideas cannot both be true at the same time and in the same way.
- Various religions offer mutually exclusive views about God, salvation, the afterlife, and a host of other issues that cannot all be true at the same time.



# THE BEAUTY OF INTOLERANCE: Navigating Pluralism

## What culture teaches:

**1. All religions are equally true and legitimate paths to God.**

**2. Religion is a matter of personal preference, not objective truth.**

- You might like chocolate ice cream, while someone else loves vanilla, but neither claim we have the one true flavor.
- We all have our truth which is completely illogical again as religion claims to make objective claims which are either true or false whether anyone believes them or not.
- Each religion including atheism have their story of the world. Each is objectively right or objectively wrong.



# THE BEAUTY OF INTOLERANCE: Navigating Pluralism

## What culture teaches:

- 1. All religions are equally true and legitimate paths to God.**
- 2. Religion is a matter of personal preference, not objective truth.**
- 3. If you think your religion is the one true religion, you are intolerant, bigoted, narrow minded.**

- This is ad hominem fallacy or name calling with no logic. If someone claims you are intolerant for your biblical views then ask them "What do you mean by that?"
- Intolerant means you think you are right and I am wrong or vice versa. That is self-contradictory since you telling me I am wrong is the same intolerance you are accusing me of.

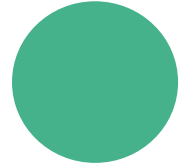




# THE BEAUTY OF INTOLERANCE: Navigating Pluralism

## 1. Know that Christianity is objectively true.

- It isn't just about feeling him, he is real because we have truth on our side.
- We need to be prepared to explain the truth
  - Does truth exist, and can we know it?
  - Does God exist, and what's the evidence?
  - Did Jesus rise from the dead, and what's the evidence?
  - Is the Bible trustworthy, and what's the evidence?
- Read good books, podcasts (Breakpoint, RZIM, summit.org)
- Know the truth and how to defend it.



# THE BEAUTY OF INTOLERANCE: Navigating Pluralism

**1. Know that Christianity is objectively true.**

**2. Understand other religious views.**

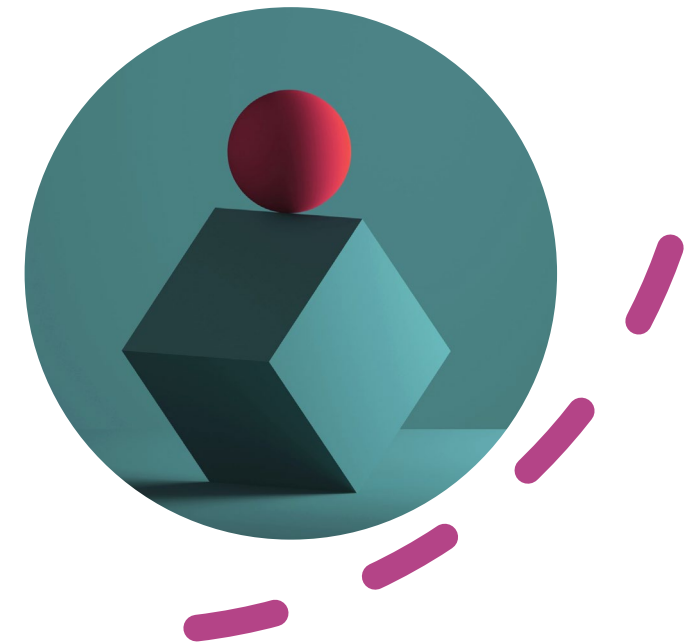
- Understanding the basic views of other religions on the key points also helps you navigate conversations with people.
- We learn in order to have answers to questions especially from atheists who might try and confuse issues or say we are all the same.
- Most people need to know:
  1. Origin - where did we come from?
  2. Ethics - how should we live?
  3. Meaning - what is the purpose for life?
  4. Destiny - where is mankind heading?

Species	Hinduism	Buddhism	Judaism	Christianity	Islam
<b>Title</b>	Hindus	Buddhists	Jews	Christians	Muslims
<b>Belief System</b>	Polytheistic	Polytheistic	Monotheistic	Monotheistic	Monotheistic
<b>Nation of Origin</b>	India	India	Mesopotamia	Middle East	Arabia
<b>Language</b>	Indian	Indian	Hebrew	Latin, English, Greek	Arabic
<b>Symbol</b>	Om	Wheel of Life (Samsara)	Star of David	The Cross, (crucifixion)	Crescent & Star
<b>Founder &amp; Time</b>	No Founder - < 3,000 years old.	Siddhartha Gautama (563-483BC)	Abraham (Made covenant w/ G*d 3400 years ago--if Hebrews worship G*d, they will be the chosen people.	Jesus - Born in Bethlehem, Raised in Nazareth, Crucified in Jerusalem.	Muhammad (570-632) Born in Mecca, driven to Medina (Hajras).
<b>Sacred Texts</b>	Upanishads, Mahabharata, & 4 Vedas	Sutras	1 <sup>st</sup> 5 books of the Bible & Talmud	The Bible	Qu'ran or Koran
<b>Major God(s)</b>	Brahman, Vishnu, & Shiva. Atman = Essential self/Perfect understanding.	No rituals, Gods, or Priests. Enlightenment through meditation only	Yahweh, G*d	God	Allah
<b>Place of Worship</b>	Temple	Temple	Synagogue	Church	Mosque
<b>Clergy</b>	Brahmins (Priestly Class)	Monks, Dalai Lama, no rituals, Gods, or Priests.	Rabbi	Priest, Preacher, Bishop, and Pope.	Prophet
<b>Law</b>			10 Commandments & Mishna (Rabbinic Law) Moses was a prophet given G*d's Law. Torah.	10 Commandments. Moses was a prophet given God's law.	No separation of Church and State - Theocracy. Sharia - Laws based on the Qu'ran. Moses was a prophet given God's law.
<b>Sacred Ideas</b>	Cattle, Monkeys, Tree Squirrels, & some snakes. Ganges River & City of Varanasi. All Hindus are vegetarian. Daily declaration of prayer, pilgrimage to places where Buddha traveled.	Trinity: Buddha, Dharma (teachings/laws), and Sangha (community of believers). April 8: Buddha's birth. Dec 8: Buddha's enlightenment. Feb 15: Buddha's Death.	Covenant b/w G*d and the Jewish people. Hanukkah, Passover, Bar/Bas Mitzvah, Zionism, Rosh Hashbanah (New Year), Yom Kippur (Day of Atonement). Jesus was just a man. Wailing Wall.	Sunday Worship, Golden Rule, Jesus died for man's sins. Trinity: Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Messiah. Disciples. Baptism, Communion (Eucharist) & Confirmation. Sunday, Christmas, Easter. Jesus was the Son of God.	Ablutions (washing of hands, face, and feet) before prayer, Muezzin (Call to Prayer), Minaret Towers, Friday Worship, Ramadan, Jihad (the effort of a good Muslim to preserve community). Jesus was a prophet.
<b>Goal of Life</b>	Moksha	Nirvana	A moral life through obedience to G*d's law.	Salvation	Other World Paradise
<b>Moral Code</b>	Kharma (Actions) + Dharma (Religious and Moral Duty) = Reincarnation up or down.	4 Noble Truths & 8-Fold Path. Prayer, meditation, and ritual to achieve enlightenment.	A moral life through obedience to G*d's law.	Faith, prayer.	5 Pillars: Creed, Prayer, Pilgrimage, Fasting, Zakat.
<b>Attitude towards violence</b>	Ahimsa	Ahimsa	10 Commandments Golden Rule	10 Commandments Golden Rule	Concept of Jihad - the effort of a good Muslim to preserve community. Context sometimes perverted.
<b>Afterlife</b>	Reincarnation based on moral code and Caste system: Priests, Warriors, Merchants, Servants (Untouchables). Contact w/ lower class requires ritual cleansing in the Ganges River.	Release from wheel of life and cycle of birth/rebirth. Union w/the universe.	Arrival of Messiah  Do not presume to know. Lead a good life and the afterlife will take care of itself.	Heaven/Hell	Pleasant based on reward and punishment
<b>Sects</b>	Caste System	Theravada: Strict fundamentalists (monks). Mahayana: Less strict observance - commoners	Orthodox / Conservative	Catholic, Protestant, hundreds of other groups and denominations.	Fundamentalist, Shi'ite (radical traditionalists), Sunni (Majority), Sufi (Mystics)
<b>Importance of Jerusalem</b>	None	None	Site of 1 <sup>st</sup> Jewish Temple - Temple of Solomon. Birthplace.	Church of Holy Sepulcher - Site of Crucifixion of Jesus	Gabriel's ascendance to Heaven on horseback.
<b>Modern Issues</b>	Widow Burning, Ghandi, Caste Abolishment.		Middle East Conflict Israel v Palestine Jerusalem ownership	Political conflict s with Muslim world concerning Israel and Palestine.	Ban against symbols representing Allah.
<b>Members (# or %)</b>		1/8 world population	17 Million - Diaspora has forced preservation through small, tightly knit communities.	<1 Billion - Complex doctrine and factional denominations make unity impossible.	Approx 750 Million - Simple doctrine is unifying.

# THE BEAUTY OF INTOLERANCE: Navigating Pluralism

- 1. Know that Christianity is objectively true.**
- 2. Understand other religious views.**
- 3. Model truth and grace in every conversation.**

- Your goal is not to win an argument but to win the person. Like Jesus, bring truth and grace together.
  - No grace- you are a jerk or arrogant
  - No truth- you are ignorant or uneducated



# THE BEAUTY OF INTOLERANCE: Navigating Pluralism

- 1. Know that Christianity is objectively true.**
- 2. Understand other religious views.**
- 3. Model truth and grace in every conversation.**
- 4. Ask good questions.**

- gotquestions.org is a great place to learn answers to questions you are being asked.
- Here are some good questions to ask:
  - What do you mean by that?
  - How do you know that is true?
  - Where did you learn that?



# THE BEAUTY OF INTOLERANCE: Navigating Pluralism

- 1. Know that Christianity is objectively true.**
- 2. Understand other religious views.**
- 3. Model truth and grace in every conversation.**
- 4. Ask good questions.**
- 5. Prepare for pushback.**
  - The world will take offense to God's truth.
  - Acts 5:41+42
  - Rejoice counting it worthy to suffer dishonor for God truth.
  - Do not cease teaching and preaching that the Christ is Jesus.



# THE BEAUTY OF INTOLERANCE: Navigating Pluralism

**Final Thoughts:  
Ephesians 4:15**

**We can be definitive and dogmatic about our claims providing we do so in the context of relationship and speaking love.**



# THE BEAUTY OF INTOLERANCE: Navigating Pluralism

## Final Thoughts:

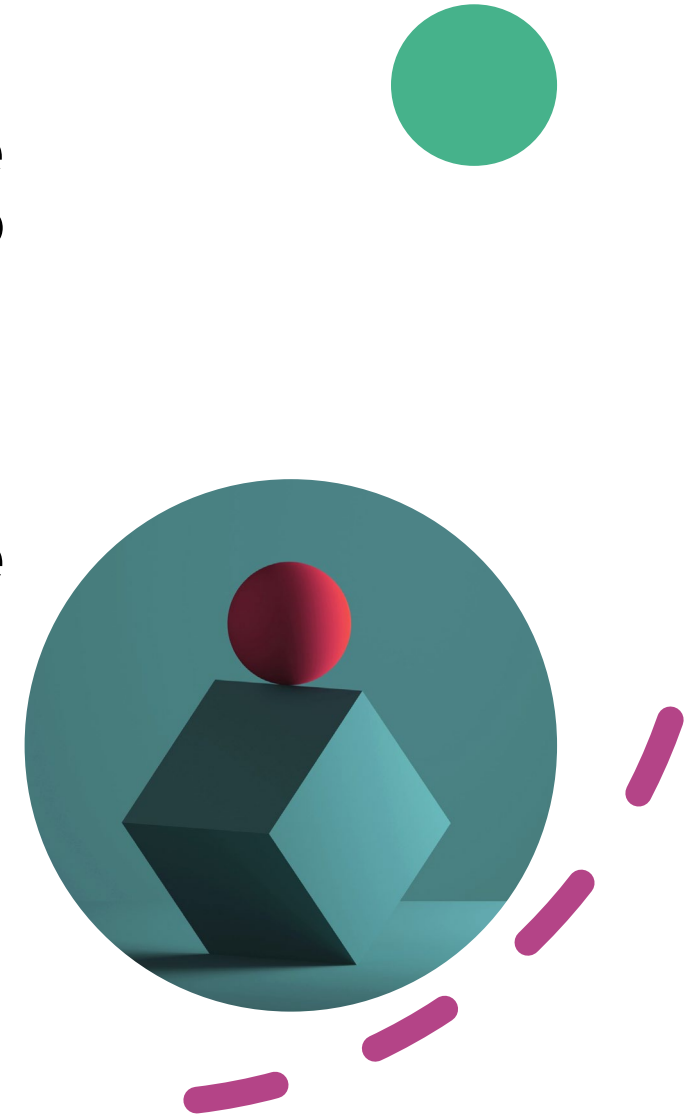
**Every moral command from Jesus and the Bible comes from a heart of a loving relationship with God.**

## Two Rules:

- 1. We must use the correct standard**
- 2. We must not presume to pass the sentence of condemnation**

**Matthew 7:1-15**

**Luke 7:34**



# THE BEAUTY OF INTOLERANCE: Navigating Pluralism

## What is the truth in these situations:

1. Is abortion acceptable within God's character?
2. Is the right to die acceptable within God's character?
3. Is same sex marriage acceptable within God's character?
4. Is living with my boyfriend/girlfriend acceptable within God's character?
5. Pornography?
6. Drinking?
7. Movies with sex, violence, language issues?
8. Eating meat?
9. Can a Christian own a gun?
10. Music which is not centered around God?

