

Beloved, do not imitate evil but imitate good. Whoever does good is from God; whoever does evil has not seen God.

3John 11

Store In My Heart

Numbers 10:11-12

Now in the second year, in the second month, on the twentieth of the month, the cloud was lifted from over the tabernacle of the testimony; and the sons of Israel set out on their journeys from the wilderness of Sinai. Then the cloud settled down in the wilderness of Paran.

We all remember that the book of Numbers includes the counting of the nation and the listing of the various dedications and sacrifices for the tabernacle. Do you remember that most of their travels are also found in this book?

Numbers is the book to read if you want to consider their travel from Sinai to Canaan. It reveals how God dealt with His Chosen when they refused to trust in His Way. Their 40 years of wilderness wandering is a stark reminder of the necessity to Listen To & Follow God.



As Tolerant as Jesus

Jon W. Quinn

I'd like to share with you some thoughts about Jesus and what He taught about judging others. Many people have an inaccurate idea about what Jesus taught on the subject. Many think He taught us not to judge others, period. That is not so. Many also suppose that Jesus tolerated anything and everything with regards to the differing religious and moral beliefs and practices of His day. He did not. Jesus was somewhat narrowminded, keeping on the path of what was noble, true and righteous.

Understand that Jesus loved everybody. He came to save anyone in the world who desired to be saved. But His love for others, as great as it was, never interfered with Him telling them the truth. He taught on very controversial matters, and brought forth the truth even when it is very unpopular, even dangerous, to do so (for example, He would take on the powerful and elite, forcefully criticizing them for exalting themselves above others in wearing distinctive clothing and assuming religious titles for themselves such as "father", and so forth - **Matthew 23:6-12**). Some preachers today think that being "tolerant" so as not to offend is being like Jesus was. It isn't. Tough love tells the truth, which sometimes hurts for the moment, but also enlightens and, with the right reception, leads to life.

Jesus did not believe, tolerate nor condone everything taught by the various religious leaders of the day. The Son of God insisted that doctrine does matter. While others may be teaching, "We are all going to the same place, just by different roads" Jesus taught *"For the gate is small and the*

way is narrow that leads to life, and there are few who find it." (**Matthew 7:14**). See how different Jesus is from how many portray Him?

Jesus does not want you or me to think that we ought to accept and believe everything we hear as being "alternative truth". He has said that truth is absolute and knowable (**John 8:31-32**). If a teaching or philosophy is contrary to the Scriptures, then it must not be tolerated but rejected. If something is not true, it does not matter how much I want it to be true, or how many insist that it is true, it is still false.

Of course, we treat all with respect and dignity as souls who bear the image of our Creator. We recognize the God given right of each person to make his or her own decisions with regard to what their relationship with God is going to entail. I am tolerant of people with beliefs differing from my own when I treat them kindly and fairly even though we disagree. That is what tolerance is. It is not agreeing with everybody, or almost everybody. It is treating people right even when we disagree.

"The Lord's bond-servant must not be quarrelsome, but be kind to all, able to teach, patient when wronged, with gentleness correcting those who are in opposition, if perhaps God may grant them repentance leading to the knowledge of the truth, and they may come to their senses and escape from the snare of the devil, having been held captive by him to do his will." (2Timothy 2:24-26).

Truth cannot be forced on anyone, and we ought not to even try. But we must try to persuade others of what God has revealed in His word. Our goal is not to win an argument, but to convict the heart. But at the end of the day, there is still only one true faith, and we do our God, our fellow human beings, and ourselves a great disservice if we carelessly say otherwise (**Ephesians 4:4-6**).

Contact Us

We want opportunities to speak with others about the Lord.

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For Our Information

Gloria Hurst received difficult news from her recent biopsy. She will be talking with a surgeon in the coming days.

Vickie McNees has a follow up visit with her Dr about her foot surgery this week and hopes to be put in a walking boot.

Jonathan Simpson's Grandfather passed away on Saturday. They will not know any funeral details until late Monday.

Stanley & Gloria Hurst are out of town this weekend.

Sunday Evening - **Daniel 9:3**. Wednesday Evening - **1Peter 4:7**.

As we consider the sick of our families, let us also remember brethren across the world who are dealing with war and disaster. Pray for God's protection.



We seek only to serve God according to His Will!