

FEBRUARY 22/23

I BELIEVE  
IN GOD  
BUT...

CHRISTIANS ARE  
INTOLERANT

JESSE TINK, EXECUTIVE  
PASTOR OF LEADERSHIP

## INTRODUCTION

In his message "I Believe in God, but Christians are Intolerant," Pastor Jesse explains what should be expected from followers of Jesus. Using 1 Corinthians 5:9-13, he shows us "true, real, authentic followers of Jesus are a different breed" because, instead of being intolerant, they are compassionate, humble people who seek and pursue peace, are not fear-mongers and disagree with others with gentleness and respect.

## DISCUSSION

1. Write down your own definition of the word "intolerant" and include an example of some action or thought you would consider to be intolerant. Read these definitions aloud and discuss them in your group. How many different definitions did you have? What does that tell you about the perceptions of others about this term?
2. **Read 1 Corinthians 5:9-13.** Pastor Jesse explained these verses were written by Paul to clarify a previous message about a sin prevalent in their church they were applying to people outside of their church. How can this be perceived as "judgmental"? Have you ever felt judged from people on the "inside" of a church congregation? How did that affect your attitude toward those people? Toward church in general?
3. **Read Colossians 3:12-15.** What is the "peace of Christ"? How can it "rule in our hearts"? As a "member" of one body, Paul says we are "called to peace." What does that look like in the church? What should it look like to those outside the church?
4. Using the verses in question #3, how can we "clothe" ourselves in "compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience"? Write down an example of how you might see this demonstrated in our church. Share what you have written with the group and pray over and about these verses.

## DO SOMETHING

1. **Read Colossians 3:1-17** every day this week; take your time and read slowly, thinking about each phrase. Meditate on these verses this week. What questions do you have? What are you struggling with in these verses? Ask Jesus to reveal His truths to you and empower you to embrace them in your life.
2. As a group, prayerfully consider inviting someone into your group who may be far from walking into a church. Plan on how to approach that person and what perceptions they may have of your group and Christians in general.
3. The next time you are in church, take a look at the people around you - not in a judgmental way, but rather, see them as guests. Remember, you were once a guest. Each Sunday, take a few minutes to visit with someone new before or after the service. Let them know they are at a No Matter church.

## RESOURCES

1. *The Intolerance of Tolerance* by D. A. Carson "lays bare the numerous fallacies of the postmodern doctrine of 'tolerance.'"
2. Do we let our faith engage those around us, or do we hide it? This [powerful video illustration](#) asks these challenging questions about our own lives. Check it out on [RightNow Media](#).
3. In five heartfelt sessions based on her book, *Fear and Faith: Finding the Peace Your Heart Craves*, speaker and author Trillia Newbell invites women to explore their fears and how those fears impact their relationships, self-esteem, peace of mind, and walk with God, available on [RightNow Media](#).