

Bedford Street Church of Christ

Be Tolerant And Do Not Sin

Text: Ephesians 4:32



- **Kind:** *xrēstós* (an adjective, derived from 5530 /*xráomai*, "to furnish what is suitable, useful") – properly, *useful* (**serviceable, productive**); *well-fitted* (*well-resourced*); ***useful* (beneficial, benevolent)**.
- **Tenderhearted:** *eúsplogxnos* (an adjective, derived from 2095 /*eú*, "good" and 4698 /*splagxnon*, "the visceral organs") – properly, the visceral organs ("*bowels*") as they exercise positive ***gut-level sympathy* (empathy, compassion)** – i.e. "***living with guts.***"
- **Forgiving:** **5483** *xarízomai* (from 5485 /*xáris*, "grace, extending favor") – properly, ***to extend favor* ("grace"), *freely give favor to grant forgiveness* (*pardon*).**

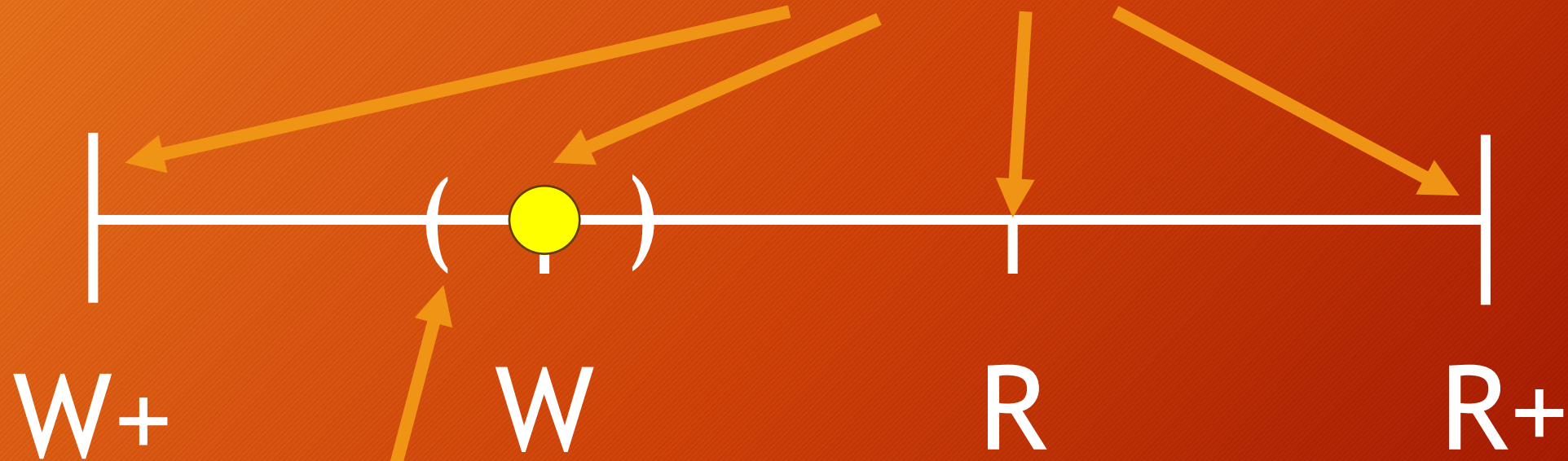
TOLERANCE

- Tolerant: showing willingness to allow the existence of opinions or behaviors that one does not necessarily agree with.
- Tolerance: the willingness to accept differences, while acceptance is the act of embracing and valuing those differences

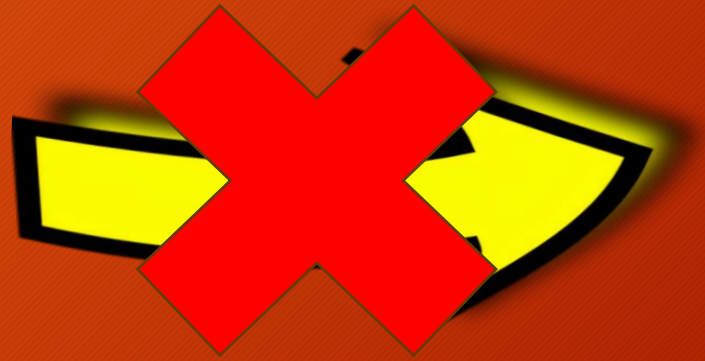


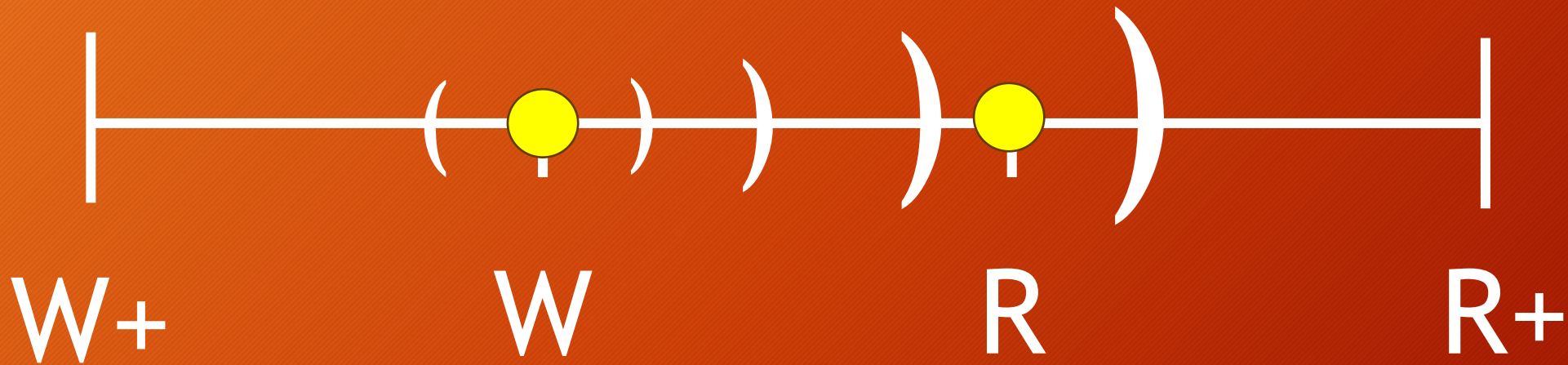
Value system

Anchor points



Lattitude of acceptance





What does the Bible say about tolerance?

- Understanding what the Bible says about tolerance is crucial for Christians today.
- Tolerance, as presented in Scripture, is a fundamentally different concept from the tolerance promoted in our society today.
- While the world advocates for a form of tolerance that demands, without judgment, the acceptance of all lifestyles and opinions as valid, the biblical perspective on tolerance is distinct.
- The Bible teaches that tolerance is not about accepting all behaviors or positions as valid but about extending patience, love, respect, and compassion toward those we may disagree with.

What does the Bible say about tolerance?

- The Bible teaches tolerance as a virtue (Romans 15:5).
- Jesus Christ modeled the kind of tolerance He desired His followers to adopt and practice (Mark 9:38–40).
- Tolerance, from a biblical viewpoint, is the quality of forbearance. It means putting up with a person or a point of view even if we disagree (Ephesians 4:2).
- The verb *tolerate* means “to allow without opposing; to acknowledge the right of another to hold contrary opinions”

What does the Bible say about tolerance?

- As Christ's followers, we cultivate tolerance when we are prepared to love and accept people despite their different viewpoints.
- However, tolerance does not require Christians to defend or embrace ungodly or unbiblical viewpoints as valid or morally correct.
- Scripture plainly reveals that some lifestyles and behaviors are sinful and dishonoring to God.
- A faithful believer who desires to please the Lord and obey His Word will prioritize, maintain, and defend the truth, even when his or her convictions conflict with society's expectations of tolerance (Acts 5:29).

What does the Bible say about tolerance?

- Tolerance is commended within the body of Christ.
- The apostle Paul wrote, “Accept other believers who are weak in faith, and don’t argue with them about what they think is right or wrong” (Romans 14:1, NLT).
- Tolerance should be exercised when dealing with immature believers whose faith is weak (Romans 14:2–6; 13-22; 1 Corinthians 8:8–13).
- Rather than passing judgment on them and condemning them for their weakness, we should come alongside weaker brothers and sisters to help them (Romans 15:1; 1 Thessalonians 5:14; 1 Peter 4:8).
- We ought to live in such a way that we never cause a fellow believer to stumble or fall.

- Scripture instructs us to practice tolerance while never compromising the truth or relaxing God's standard of holiness.
- This balance allows us to see people through the eyes of Jesus and perceive that they are lost, helpless sinners in want of His great compassion, mercy, grace, and forgiveness (Matthew 9:36; Mark 6:34).
- When we love people like Jesus does, selflessly, we can hear and see their unspoken needs, even if we don't agree with them.

Questions to guide us....

- Is my tolerance helpful, allowing the other person to learn about the consequences of their behaviors without harm?
- Is my tolerance patient allowing someone to find their own way and not control them ?
- Is my tolerance harmful because I am ignoring bad behaviors that are hurtful to others?
- Is my tolerance a necessity for my survival, but not a situation that is healthy for me, meaning that I may need to make changes or other choices?