

Transformed

From Tolerance to Loving Like Jesus

Reflect:

- 1) In your view, is there any difference between tolerating one another and loving one another? Explain your view.
- 2) Discuss and describe if you think there is a difference between the way humans define love and the way Jesus defined love?
- 3) What's your definition of tolerance?

Read Your Bible:

- 1 John 4:7-21
- John 15:9-17
- Ephesians 5:1-2

Apply God's Word to Your Life

- 1) Based on your reading of 1 John, what's your definition of loving like Jesus?
- 2) Discuss/reflect on how knowing God is related to loving one another, according to scripture.
- 3) John 15:10 states, "If you keep my commands, you remain in my love." How is keeping what Jesus commanded His followers to do related to expressing love for Him?
- 4) Can you imagine Jesus commanding us, "Tolerate one another as I have tolerated you?" Reflections or comments?
- 5) According to the scripture readings above, what does Jesus command of us and how can that be applied to your life?
- 6) "Love one another as I have loved you." This is a radical command from Christ. Give examples of what this looks like in real life?
- 7) What actions do you need to take in your life to move from tolerating others to loving one another like Jesus?

Tolerance is today's buzz word for getting along in this world. If I tolerate you we can all get along. That may be true to a degree, but to tolerate you is simply to put up with you. I can hold you at arm's length and tolerate you. I don't ever really need to get to know you. I don't have to change the way I view YOU. Christian love is transforming in that I am commanded by Christ to see you as God sees you. You are a son or daughter of God and as such I am called to love you as Jesus loved you and gave His life up for you. That is a life changing and life challenging call, "To love one another as Jesus loves us." To make progress in changing your worldview from tolerance to love requires the Holy Spirit's help and a change of heart. As the song reminds us, "Put a little love in your heart," and let the love of Christ for you transform your worldview from tolerance to loving like Jesus.

Pray: Lord God, I am beyond thankful for Your love put into action in the life of Your Son. His life and sacrifice for my relationship with You opens my eyes to what real love is like. I ask You, God, to be at work in me that I may love more like Jesus and more through my words and deeds. Change my heart. Focus my worldview on You. I desire to move from tolerating others to loving them like Jesus. I love You Lord and dedicate my life to following Your Son's example and commands. In Jesus' name, Amen.