



Piers Morgan

CNN Journalist
& Television Host

- On December 24, 2012, Piers Morgan interviewed evangelical Rick Warren.
- Morgan asserted both the Bible and the U.S. Constitution were “inherently flawed” and needed new “amendments”.

“Both the Bible and the Constitution were well intentioned but they are basically, inherently flawed. Hence, the need to amend it. My point to you about gay rights, for example, [is that] it's time for an amendment to the Bible. You should compile a new Bible.”

–Piers Morgan

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-2253902/Now-Piers-Morgan-says-Bible-flawed.html>

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- Extreme and inflaming remarks; but by no means unusual.
 - Many are in acceptance of his views: (their numbers are growing!)
 - Political progressives view the Constitution as a “living document”.
 - ▶ Subject to the whims of each generation.
 - Religious liberals view the Scriptures in the same way.
 - ▶ The Bible is a “living document”.
 - ▶ Subject to the whims of each generation.
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- Mr. Morgan's statement is more honest than some of his cohorts.
 - He acknowledges the Bible, as it's written, does not endorse gay marriages.
 - In the same way, his comments about the Constitution acknowledges the current efforts to deny law-abiding citizens the right to bear arms is a violation of the Second Amendment.
 - Thus Mr. Morgan believes both the Bible and the Constitution need to be amended, so they will conform to the present day mindset.
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PLURALISM: TOLERANCE OF ALL BELIEFS

T Christian cross
O Peace sign
L Native American Indian pipe
E Male and female symbols
R Kokopelli (fertility deity)
A Jewish Star
N Baha'i 9 Pointed Star (Persia)
C Islamic Star and Crescent
E Einstein's formula $e=mc^2$ (God & nature)
C is the symbol for Islam
O is the symbol for peace
E is the symbol for males/females
X is the symbol for Judaism
I is dotted with a Wiccan Pentangle
S is the symbol for the yin-yang or Confucianism
T is the symbol for Christianity

PLURALISM: TOLERANCE OF ALL BELIEFS

- Is it true, as many assert, that all beliefs are equally valid and we must manifest a tolerance of all beliefs?
 - Is truth defined by each and every individual?
 - Does it make any difference what we believe and practice?
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PLURALISM: TOLERANCE OF ALL BELIEFS

- What Is Pluralism?
 - “Theory that there are more than one or more than two kinds of ultimate reality” (**Webster**).
 - “A theory or system that recognizes more than one ultimate principle” (**Oxford**).
 - As citizens of the U.S. we live in a nation where different ethnic, racial, religious, and social groups exist.
 - While we enjoy freedom of religious thought and expression, this does not mean that all are equally valid, at least in the sight of God and according to the standard of His Divine revelation.
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PLURALISM: TOLERANCE OF ALL BELIEFS

- What Is Meant By Tolerance?
 - “Sympathy or indulgence for beliefs or practices differing from or conflicting with one’s own”
(Webster).
 - “The ability, willingness, or capacity to tolerate something” **(Oxford).**
 - Again, we are blessed with various freedoms (i.e., assembly, speech, and religion).
 - However, this does not mean that truth is relative or that it is self-defined.
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MODERN DAY TOLERANCE

- The Modern Concept Of Tolerance is Incompatible With Teaching of God Almighty.
 - *“Thou shalt have no other gods before me.”* (**Exodus 20:3-6; Deuteronomy 6:13-15; Isaiah 44:6-8**).
 - It is incompatible with the teaching of the prophets who called upon ancient Israel to choose between the Lord and false idols. (**Joshua 24:14-28; I Kings 18:20-40**)
 - It is incompatible with the teaching of the Lord Jesus Christ, who condemned unscriptural innovations, and affirmed *“**I** am the way, and the truth, and the life; no one comes to the Father but through **ME**”* (**John 14:6; Matthew 7:21-23**).
 - It is incompatible with the teaching of the apostles who exhorted Christians to *“contend earnestly for the faith which was once for all delivered to the saints”* (**Jude 3; Galatians 1:6-9**).
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3 "You shall have no other gods before Me. 4 "You shall not make for yourself a carved image—any likeness of anything that is in heaven above, or that is in the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth; 5 you shall not bow down to them nor serve them. For I, the LORD your God, am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children to the third and fourth generations of those who hate Me,

and the truth, and the life; no one comes to the Father but through ME” (**John 14:6; Matthew 7:21-23**).

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13 You shall fear the LORD your God and serve Him, and shall take oaths in His name. 14 You shall not go after other gods, the gods of the peoples who are all around you 15 (for the LORD your God is a jealous God among you), lest the anger of the LORD your God be aroused against you and destroy you from the face of the earth.

*and the truth, and the life; no one comes to the Father but through **ME**” (John 14:6; Matthew 7:21-23).*

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hosts: 'I am the First and I am the Last; Besides Me there is no God. 7 And
who can proclaim as I do? Then let him declare it and set it in order for Me,
Since I appoint 21 And Elijah came to all the people, and said, "How long will you
come, Let the falter between two opinions? If the LORD is God, follow Him;
told you from but if Baal, follow him." But the people answered him not a word.
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15 And if it see 21 And Elijah came to all the people, and said, "How long will you day whom you falter between two opinions? If the LORD is God, follow Him; were on the o but if Baal, follow him." But the people answered him not a word. land you dwell. But as for me and my house, we will serve the LORD.

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6 I marvel that you are turning away so soon from Him who called you

in the grace of Christ, to a different gospel, 7 which is not another; but

there are some who trouble you and want to pervert the gospel of

Christ. 8 But even if we, or an angel from heaven, preach any other

gospel to you than what we have preached to you, let him be accursed.

9 As we have said before, so now I say again, if anyone preaches any

other gospel to you than what you have received, let him be accursed.

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other gospel to you than what you have received, let him be accursed.

21 "Not everyone who says to Me, 'Lord, Lord,' shall enter the kingdom of

heaven, but he who does the will of My Father in heaven. 22 Many will say to Me

in that day, 'Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in Your name, cast out demons

in Your name, and done many wonders in Your name?' 23 And then I will declare

to them, 'I never knew you; depart from Me, you who practice lawlessness!'

BIBLICAL TOLERANCE

Greek word *anecho*, translated “endure” or “bear with” in KJV and “show tolerance” or “tolerate” in the NASB means either “to regard someone or something with tolerance, i.e., **bear with, put up with, tolerate**”, or “to undergo something onerous or troublesome without giving in, i.e., **endure**”.

BIBLICAL TOLERANCE

This word occurs 15 times in the New Testament and may be grouped in the following categories:

I. Some things are tolerated because they fall within the realm of duty.

- Regarding the charge made by the Jews against Paul, Gallio the deputy of Achaia said, *“If it were a matter of wrongdoing or wicked crimes, O Jews, there would be reason why I should **bear with** you. 15 But if it is a question of words and names and your own law, look to it yourselves; for I do not want to be a judge of such matters.”* Acts 18:14-15 **NKJV**
 - *“But when Paul was about to open his mouth, Gallio said to the Jews, ‘If it were a matter of wrong or of vicious crime, O Jews, it would be reasonable for me **to put up with** you; 15 but if there are questions about words and names and your own law, look after it yourselves; I am unwilling to be a judge of these matters.’”* **NASB**
 - It was Galileo’s duty to judge criminal wrongdoing; however religious disputes fell outside his civil jurisdiction.
 - Faithful Christians willingly **“endure”** persecutions and afflictions. (1 Cor. 4:11-13; 2 Thess. 1:3-5)
 - Facing such trials are part and parcel of a Christian’s life. (John 15:18-25)
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11 To the present hour we both hunger and thirst, and we are poorly clothed, and beaten, and homeless. 12 And we labor, working with our own hands. Being reviled, we bless; being persecuted, we **endure; 13 being defamed, we entreat. We have been made as the filth of the world, the offscouring of all things until now.**

- Faithful Christians willingly “**endure**” persecutions and afflictions. (1 Cor. 4:11-13; 2 Thess. 1:3-5)
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3 We ought always to give thanks to God for you, brethren, as is only fitting, because your faith is greatly enlarged, and the love of each one of you toward one another grows ever greater; 4 therefore, we ourselves speak proudly of you among the churches of God for your perseverance and faith in the midst of all your persecutions and afflictions which you **endure. 5 This is a plain indication of God’s righteous judgment so that you will be considered worthy of the kingdom of God, for which indeed you are suffering.**

- Faithful Christians willingly “**endure**” persecutions and afflictions. (1 Cor. 4:11-13; 2 Thess. 1:3-5)
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18 “If the world hates you, you know that it has hated Me before it hated you. 19 If you were of the world, the world would love its own; but because you are not of the world, but I chose you out of the world, because of this the world hates you. 20 Remember the word that I said to you, ‘A slave is not greater than his master.’ If they persecuted Me, they will also persecute you; if they kept My word, they will keep yours also. 21 But all these things they will do to you for My name’s sake, because they do not know the One who sent Me. 22 If I had not come and spoken to them, they would not have sin, but now they have no excuse for their sin. 23 He who hates Me hates My Father also. 24 If I had not done among them the works which no one else did, they would not have sin; but now they have both seen and hated Me and My Father as well. 25 But they have done this to fulfill the word that is written in their Law, ‘They hated Me without a cause.’

■ Facing such trials are part and parcel of a Christian’s life. (John 15:18-25)

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2. Some things are tolerated because they fall within the realm of love.

- Regarding the faithless generation to which He spoke, Jesus said, “*O faithless and perverse generation, how long shall I be with you? How long shall I **bear** with you?*” Mt. 17:17 **NKJV** (Parallel - Mk. 9:19; Lk. 9:41)
 - “*You unbelieving and perverted generation, how long shall I be with you? How long shall I **put up** with you?*” **NASB**
 - Realizing our own frailty we should be thankful the Lord **bears** with our weaknesses; yet, let us also recognize the limit of His patience. (2 Pet. 3:8-13)
 - Christians must also show “**tolerance**” toward one another in love. (Eph. 4:1-3), “**bearing**” with one another, and forgiving one another. (Col. 3:12-14)
 - We should love one another, as we collectively strive to walk according to His commandments. (John 13:34-35; 2 John 4-6)
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2. **Some things are tolerated because they fall within the realm of love.**

8 But, beloved, do not forget this one thing, that with the Lord one day is as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day.
9 The Lord is not slack concerning His promise, as some count slackness, but is **longsuffering** toward us, not willing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance.'

- Realizing our own frailty we should be thankful the Lord **bears** with our weaknesses; yet, let us also recognize the limit of His patience. (2 Pet. 3:8-13)
 - Christians must also show “**tolerance**” toward one another in love. (Eph. 4:1-3), “**bearing**” with one another, and forgiving one another. (Col. 3:12-14)
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8 But, beloved, do not forget this one thing, that with the Lord one day is as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day.

1. I, therefore, the prisoner of the Lord, beseech you to walk worthy of the calling with which you were called, 2 with all lowliness and gentleness, with longsuffering, **bearing with** one another in love, 3 endeavoring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.

- Christians must also show “**tolerance**” toward one another in love. (Eph. 4:1-3), “**bearing**” with one another, and forgiving one another. (Col. 3:12-14)
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2. **Some things are tolerated because they fall within the realm of love.**

8 But, beloved, do not forget this one thing, that with the Lord

12 Therefore, as the elect of God, holy and beloved, put on tender mercies, kindness, humility, meekness, longsuffering;

13 **bearing with** one another, and forgiving one another, if anyone has a complaint against another; even as Christ forgave you, so you also must do. 14 But above all these things put on love, which is the bond of perfection.

- Christians must also show “**tolerance**” toward one another in love. (Eph. 4:1-3), “**bearing**” with one another, and forgiving one another. (Col. 3:12-14)
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34 A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another; as I have loved you, that you also love one another.

35 By this all will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another.”

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12 Therefore, as the elect of God, holy and beloved, put on

4 I rejoiced greatly that I have found some of your children walking in truth, as we received commandment from the Father.

5 And now I plead with you, lady, not as though I wrote a new commandment to you, but that which we have had from the beginning: that we love one another. 6 This is love, that we walk according to His commandments. This is the commandment, that as you have heard from the beginning, you should walk in it.

- We should love one another, as we collectively strive to walk according to His commandments. (John 13:34-35; 2 John 4-6)
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3. Some things **MUST NOT BE** tolerated because they fall outside the realm of truth.

- Paul used the term to describe the Corinthian church's toleration of false teachers and their damnable doctrines: *"For you **put up with** fools gladly, since you yourselves are wise! 20 For you **put up with** it if one brings you into bondage, if one devours you, if one takes from you, if one exalts himself, if one strikes you on the face."* 2 Cor. 11:19-20 **NKJV**
 - *"For you, being so wise, **tolerate** the foolish gladly. 20 For you **tolerate** it if anyone enslaves you, anyone devours you, anyone takes advantage of you, anyone exalts himself, anyone hits you in the face."* **NASB**
 - Christ also criticized the church in Thyatira for tolerating evil within their midst: *"Nevertheless I have a few things against you, because you **allow** that woman Jezebel, who calls herself a prophetess, to teach and seduce My servants to commit sexual immorality and eat things sacrificed to idols."* Rev. 2:20 **NKJV** ("sufferest", **KJV**)
 - *"But I have this against you, that you **tolerate** the woman Jezebel, who calls herself a prophetess, and she teaches and leads My bond-servants astray so that they commit acts of immorality and eat things sacrificed to idols."* **NASB**
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PLURALISM: TOLERANCE OF ALL BELIEFS

■ CONCLUSION:

- Disciples of Christ should **bear with/be tolerant** of one another as we struggle with weaknesses in trying to live faithfully for the Lord.
 - Nevertheless, we must not **put up with/tolerate** sinful behavior or false doctrine; they can neither be accepted or endorsed.
 - It all comes down to our attitude toward the truth.
 - Human opinions are in a state of constant flux/change; Divine truth never changes! (Psalms 119:89,160; Isaiah 40:6-8; 1 Peter 1:22-25)
 - Apostates will not **endure/tolerate** sound doctrine (2 Tim. 4:1-5), but believers **bear with/tolerate** the inspired message (Heb. 13:22).
 - While disciples of Christ are obligated to show tolerance for one another in love, we must respect the distinctive nature of the Gospel above all (Eph. 4:1-16).
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PLURALISM: TOLERANCE OF ALL BELIEFS

22 Since you have purified your souls in obeying the truth through the Spirit in sincere love of the brethren, love one another fervently with a pure heart, 23 having been born again, not of corruptible seed but incorruptible, through the word of God which lives and abides forever, 24 because “All flesh is as grass, And all the glory of man as the flower of the grass. The grass withers, And its flower falls away, 25 But the word of the Lord endures forever.”

- Human opinions are in a state of constant flux/change; Divine truth never changes! (Psalms 119:89,160; Isaiah 40:6-8; 1 Peter 1:22-25)
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PLURALISM:

TOLERANCE OF ALL BELIEFS

1. I charge you therefore before God and the Lord Jesus Christ, who will judge the living and the dead at His appearing and His kingdom: 2 Preach the word! Be ready in season and out of season. Convince, rebuke, exhort, with all longsuffering and teaching. 3 For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine, but according to their own desires, because they have itching ears, they will heap up for themselves teachers; 4 and they will turn their ears away from the truth, and be turned aside to fables. 5 But you be watchful in all things, **endure** afflictions, do the work of an evangelist, fulfill your ministry.

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89 Forever, O Lord, Your word is settled in heaven.

160 The entirety of Your word is truth, And every one of Your righteous judgments endures forever.

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6 The voice said, "Cry out!" And he said, "What shall I cry?" "All flesh is grass, And all its loveliness is like the flower of the field.

7 The grass withers, the flower fades, Because the breath of the Lord blows upon it; 8 The grass withers, the flower fades, But the word of our God stands forever."

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6 The voice said, "Cry out!" And he said, "What shall I cry?" "All flesh is grass, And all its loveliness is like the flower of the field.

22 And I appeal to you, brethren, **bear** with the word of exhortation, for I have written to you in few words But the word of our God stands forever."
