

TOLERANCE vs. PREJUDICE Parent Preview

1. I encourage you to invest a few minutes a day and implement some of these ideas at home. If you do you will be reinforcing the character lessons we will be teaching your child this month. Doing this will truly help your child get SO MUCH MORE out of the time you spend at our school as well as establish patterns for biblical behavior as adults.
2. You may not have interest or time to read this entire newsletter. However, please take a few seconds to scan through the different topics.
3. Try it for a month! Print out this newsletter, and then each day pick something to discuss and practice with your children.
4. It will only take a minute of your time each day but will make a BIG IMPACT in your child's life.

The Power of a Partnership and Consistency

If you desire to help your child develop a high level of confidence, a polite and respectful attitude and good manners, with a desire to do what is right in the sight of God when faced with tough choices, **then we desire** to partner with you, and Lord willing, with the Grace of God, **make a BIG DIFFERENCE in what your child can achieve in life, school, sports, and relationships with others, all for the Glory of God!**

Our program is designed to encourage children to apply God's Word to their lives, develop and learn Christ-like character and sports fitness.

Definition for Class:

TOLERANCE is accepting others at different levels of maturity.

Other definitions:

- Making allowances for those who lack wisdom or maturity and praying that they will see and follow God's ways.
- Realizing that everyone is at varying levels of character development.
- The amount of variation from a standard that will be accepted.
- Tolerance presupposes a standard of conduct by which all other behavior is measured.
- Refusing to acknowledge or correct wrong decisions is not tolerance but simple-mindedness.
- Tolerance is more concerned about communicating Christ's love and truth than changing outward appearance or attitudes.
- Tolerance is motivated by remembering how patient God has been with us and our sins.
- Tolerance is not changing God's standards but living them out in such a way that others will want to follow them.
- Never mistake God's tolerance of a sinner as tolerance of sin.

Application for Home and Life Skills Development:

WHY TEACH TOLERANCE? Life at home runs smoothly when children show tolerance to each other. While tolerance does not eliminate conflict, it helps children to work together to resolve problems. The five "I wills" lay a foundation of tolerance in daily life.

1. **I will not confuse what is right with what is popular.**
2. **I will expect the same of myself as I expect of others.**
3. **I will look for ways to help others mature.**
4. **I will accept my own unchangeables and the unchangeables of others.**
5. **I will listen before I form an opinion.**

Scripture Memory for class:

And such were some of you. But you were washed, you were sanctified, you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and by the Spirit of our God. (1 Corinthians 6:11 ESV)

Christ came to save sinners (cf. Matt. 9:13; Rom. 5:20). Some who used to have patterns of a sinful life were falling into those old sins again, and needed reminding that if they went all the way back to live as they used to, they were not going to inherit eternal salvation, because it would indicate that they never were saved (cf. 2 Cor. 5:17).

washed. Refers to new life, through spiritual cleansing and regeneration (cf. John 3:3–8; 2 Cor. 5:17; Eph. 2:10; Titus 3:5).

sanctified. This results in new behavior, which a transformed life always produces. Sin's total domination is broken and replaced by a new pattern of obedience and holiness. Though not perfection, this is a new direction (see Rom. 6:17, 18, 22).

justified. This refers to a new standing before God, in which the Christian is clothed in Christ's righteousness. In His death, the believer's sins were put to His account and He suffered for them, so that His righteousness might be put to an account, so that we might be blessed for it (Rom. 3:26; 4:22–25; 2 Cor. 5:21; Phil. 3:8, 9; 1 Pet. 3:18).

by the Spirit. The Holy Spirit is the agent of salvation's transformation (cf. John 3:3–5).

MacArthur, J. J. (1997, c1997). *The MacArthur Study Bible* (electronic ed.) (1 Co 6:11). Nashville: Word Pub.

Regeneration The work of the Holy Spirit in creating a new life in the sinful person who repents and comes to believe in Christ.

Sanctification The divine act of making the believer actually holy—that is, bringing the person's moral condition into conformity with the legal status established in justification.

Justification by faith Declaration that the person has been restored to a state of righteousness on the basis of belief and trust in the work of Christ rather than on the basis of one's own accomplishment.

Erickson, M. J. (2001). *The concise dictionary of Christian theology* (Rev. ed., 1st Crossway ed.) (109). Wheaton, Ill.: Crossway Books.

The Concept of Tolerance

Tolerance does not lower the standards of good character in order to make everyone more acceptable.

Tolerance keeps the standard high and encourages others to pursue good character without rejecting them if they fail.

People's strengths and weaknesses differ. Tolerance looks past others' weaknesses in order to appreciate their strengths.

However, the lack of character should never be condoned. Overlooking blatant character violations, encouraging rebellion, or lowering standards in the name of tolerance reveals a misunderstanding of the character quality.

Ways to Correct Blind Spots

Character weaknesses that we don't see in ourselves are called "blind spots." Being open to what others see in us helps us correct blind spots. It is a truth of human nature that we tend to tolerate our own mistakes while being quick to criticize others.

Praising Character vs. Achievement!

Some people hesitate to praise children because they think, "I don't want them to think they have reached perfection." The truth is none of us ever reaches perfection. Tolerance will praise attempts at good character without lowering the standard. If you wait for your child to have perfect character before you give them praise, you will have turned character into achievement rather than seeing it as a process of growth.

It will often be necessary to overlook one or more character flaws in others while praising a character trait that is strong.

You will find that when you praise one quality, a different one will begin to develop.

Don't wait for a quality to be a habit before you praise it. The purpose of praise is to reward and encourage growth.

"Criticism, like a rock, more often dulls a fine blade than sharpens it."

Illustrations Used in KK4C Class

Along with teaching and expanding on the above definition, the 'I wills', and scripture, **TOLERANCE** will be illustrated using:

- **The Character Card of the Month – TOLERANCE in nature with the EASTERN BOX TURTLE.** Even though it can't maneuver quickly, the eastern box turtle's natural defense makes it an "armored tank" in the woods. The soft meat of the eastern box turtle is a delicacy for curious raccoons. Unable to fight against the agile raccoon, the turtle must retreat inside its shell. As the raccoon tinkers with the turtle, trying to find a crack to pry it open, the turtle must patiently tolerate being turned over and tossed around while holding itself shut.
- **Punctuality in History with Abigail Adams** – She never looked down on others in spite of her family's fame. Abigail risks losing the favor of her Massachusetts neighbors to uphold the truth, "that all men are created equal." She looked past racial differences to help others achieve their goals. She did all she could to invest in the lives of others.

Character Card Tips

Character is useless unless it is a part of everyday life. Use the character cards and join with us in teaching your child the 'I wills' by saying, "Here are ways you can practice **TOLERANCE**." Then read the "I wills" on the back of the card.

Then elaborate on each one from your own life sharing personal illustrations of when you did what was right or did something that was wrong. Be sure to emphasize that there were benefits to right choices and consequences to wrong choices.

Personal Evaluation – How TOLERANT are you?

1. Do you view each person as an individual rather than merely as a member of a race, culture or group?
2. Do you evaluate ideas and behavior based on laws of creation and God's Law?
3. Do you make allowances for those who are not as wise and mature as they should be?
4. When you see faults in others, does it motivate you to be an example of Godly living before them?
5. Do you look for common ground with people of different viewpoints and behavior rather than focusing solely of differing opinions and standards?
6. Do you make greater allowances for unbelievers than you do for believers?
7. Do you remind yourself that tolerance is based on God's right to rule His world and that He has not given that right to anyone outside His delegated authorities?
8. Do you serve people regardless of their viewpoints and ask God to change those who need changing?

TOLERANCE in the Home Includes:

- Focusing on family members' strengths instead of their weaknesses.
- A parent realizing that each child will grow and develop good character at different levels of enthusiasm and maturity.
- Parents not showing favoritism to certain children.
- Sons and daughters accepting that parents are still growing in character and are not perfect.
- Family members being patient with each other.

Rewards of TOLERANCE

- **DISCERNMENT** – Realizing that other people have different convictions and levels of maturity enables a person to have greater discernment of another's true needs.
- **ACCEPTANCE** – Discerning another's needs rather than judging his or her character flaws shows the other person care and acceptance. A person who accepts others will receive the same acceptance in spite of personal flaws.

Manners

We will be reviewing with your child how to be a good winner and a good loser teaching them the "TEN COMMANDMENTS OF SPORTSMANSHIP"

1. Deflect the praise
2. Play by the rules
3. Praise the good in others
4. Respect the officials
5. Teach others to be successful
6. Learn from your mistakes
7. Avoid trash talking
8. Congratulate the winner
9. Build the whole team
10. Return to play another day

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