



The Myth: God tolerates us.

The Truth: God loves us.

Listen! Many times I was “sentenced” to take my little sister along and tolerate her.

- **Tension:** Ever feel like God must just be tolerating you? Like He made a commitment to you, which He may now regret, but is tolerating you for the sake of His personal integrity in keeping the commitment?

The Myth: God tolerates us.

- We are such inconsistent, sinful, easily distracted people that His toleration is the best we can hope for.

The Truth: God far more than tolerates us...He loves us with a passion.

- God loved us—past tense. John 3:16.
- God loves us—present tense. Revelation 1:5.
- God’s love is proven in the cross of Christ. Revelation 1:5 and Romans 8:32.
- God is love—the very embodiment of love itself. 1 John 4:8.
- God embodies 1 Corinthians 13—the love chapter:
 - His words are loving and terrifically helpful. Vs 1
 - His prophecies are sure. Vs 2
 - His provisions are good and essential. Vs 3
 - He is amazingly patient toward us. Vs 4
 - He is outstandingly kind toward us. Vs 4
 - He sought our good rather than His own. Vs 5
 - He does not allow Himself to be provoked by us. Vs 5
 - He is not a grudge holder. Vs 5
 - He does not allow us to continue in unrighteousness. Vs 6
 - He habitually and incessantly tells us the truth. Vs 6
 - He bears with us remarkably. Vs 7
 - He hopes in us patiently. Vs 7
 - He endures our inconsistencies and faithlessness. Vs 7
 - He never fails to love us. Vs 8
 - He is love and He is the greatest Lover. Vs 13

The Idea Again: God far more than tolerates us...He loves us with a passion.

Live Differently:

- **Worshipping**—praise God for His love—it is astounding and critically needed.
- **Reaching**—cultivate love for lost people in Jerusalem, Judea, Samaria, and the remotest parts of the earth—really work at it.
- **Coaching**—cultivate love for other believers—really work at it.
- **Family**—cultivate love for your family members—really work at it.

The “Triple Love” of God: Created us. Redeemed us. Destined us for heaven. The Lord Jesus is integral to our creation and our redemption and our destiny.

The Essence of love: To love someone is to faithfully act for their wellbeing. This is the essence of God’s stance toward us and the essence of God’s expectation of us.

“Walking Papers”

Practical helps for walking the Christian walk each day this week.

Myth: God tolerates us. **Truth:** God more than tolerates us...He loves us with a passion.

- **Sunday:** Is the “feel” of your relationship with God more one of “He tolerates me” or one of “He loves me?” Why?
- **Monday:** What does it mean in your love relationship with **God** to “faithfully act for His wellbeing?”
- **Tuesday:** What does it mean in your love relationship with **your spouse** to “faithfully act for his or her wellbeing?”
- **Wednesday:** What does it mean in your love relationship with your **children** and/or **parents** to “faithfully act for their wellbeing?”
- **Thursday:** What does it mean in your love relationship with the **unbelievers** you know to “faithfully act for their wellbeing?”
- **Friday:** What does it mean in your love relationship with other **believers** to “faithfully act for their wellbeing?”
- **Saturday:** How can you get into greater touch with the truth that God loves you?

Note for Connection Groups: The full study guide for small group and personal study is available at: www.cypressbible.org and then click on “Get Connected” and the link is on that page.