

**DOES CHRISTIANITY ENCOURAGE INTOLERANCE?  
REASONS PEOPLE AVOID FAITH IN CHRIST: PART 6 OF 7**

**2 Corinthians 2**<sup>9</sup> The reason I wrote you was to see if you would stand the test and be obedient in everything. <sup>10</sup> If you forgive anyone, I also forgive him. And what I have forgiven—if there was anything to forgive—I have forgiven in the sight of Christ for your sake, <sup>11</sup> in order that Satan might not outwit us. For we are not unaware of his schemes.

<sup>12</sup> Now when I went to Troas to preach the gospel of Christ and found that the Lord had opened a door for me, <sup>13</sup> I still had no peace of mind, because I did not find my brother Titus there. So I said good-by to them and went on to Macedonia.

<sup>14</sup> But thanks be to God, who always leads us in triumphal procession in Christ and through us spreads everywhere the fragrance of the knowledge of him. <sup>15</sup> For we are to God the aroma of Christ among those who are being saved and those who are perishing. <sup>16</sup> To the one we are the smell of death; to the other, the fragrance of life. And who is equal to such a task? <sup>17</sup> Unlike so many, we do not peddle the word of God for profit. On the contrary, in Christ we speak before God with sincerity, like men sent from God.

**2 Timothy 4**<sup>1</sup> In the presence of God and of Christ Jesus, who will judge the living and the dead, and in view of his appearing and his kingdom, I give you this charge: <sup>2</sup> Preach the Word; be prepared in season and out of season; correct, rebuke and encourage—with great patience and careful instruction. <sup>3</sup> For the time will come when men will not put up with sound doctrine. Instead, to suit their own desires, they will gather around them a great number of teachers to say what their itching ears want to hear. <sup>4</sup> They will turn their ears away from the truth and turn aside to myths. <sup>5</sup> But you, keep your head in all situations, endure hardship, do the work of an evangelist, discharge all the duties of your ministry.

<sup>6</sup> For I am already being poured out like a drink offering, and the time has come for my departure. <sup>7</sup> I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. <sup>8</sup> Now there is in store for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will award to me on that day—and not only to me, but also to all who have longed for his appearing. <sup>1</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> *The Holy Bible: New International Version*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1996, c1984.

## 1. The Objection

### Christian Faith encourages Intolerance

#### A. What is said?

Christians are intolerant and prone to violence

Christians are narrow minded and mean spirited

#### B. The Assumptions

What is intolerance?

An active definition

A passive definition

Pastor Tom's Problem

Is he too sensitive – Fragile

Is there a Political Correctness

## 2. General observations

There can be intolerance toward Christian ideas

Is there:

Right and Wrong

Just and Unjust

True and False

Holy and Unholy

Sin and Forgiveness

There can be an intolerance by Christians that is overdone

Contempt

Condescending

### 3. Biblical Response

*In the same way, let your light shine before men,  
that they may see your good deeds and praise your Father in heaven. Matthew 5:16*

#### A. Behave so as not to invite or incite

Matthew 5:1-11

1 Peter 2:13-25

† Passages from last week still relevant: Matthew 7:7-12; Romans 13:8-10; 1 Peter 3:15-18; James 2:8-13

#### B. Behave with clarity of belief

2 Corinthians 2:9-17

2 Timothy 4:1-8

#### C. Be Prepared to be misunderstood

Matthew 5:12-16

1 Peter 3:8-17

### How do we reply?

Humility, Kindness, Patience, Gentleness and Goodness

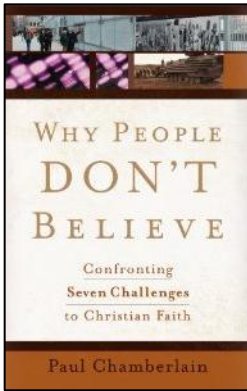
Integrity, Honesty, Truthful, Endurance and Courageous

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Next week's Question:

Would the world be a better place without Christianity?

Part 7 of 7

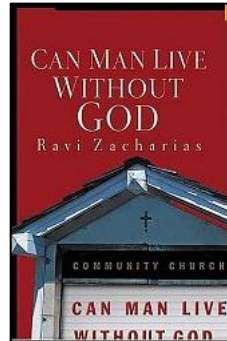
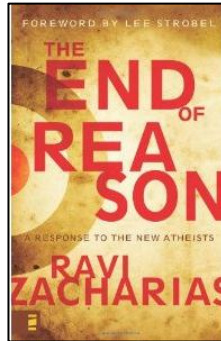
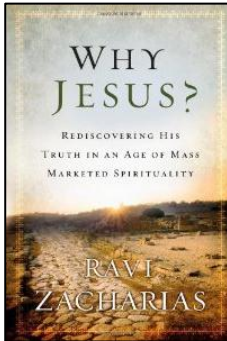


Message Methodology: I am using the book pictured to the left, “*Why People don’t Believe*” by Paul Chamberlain, Baker Books, 2001, as my primary resource to build this series of messages. From there I will supplement the framework provided from reading, current events and conclude with biblical reflection on the key idea being presented.

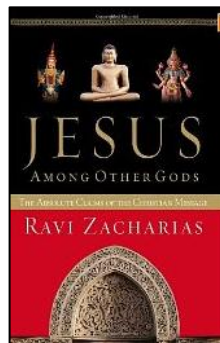
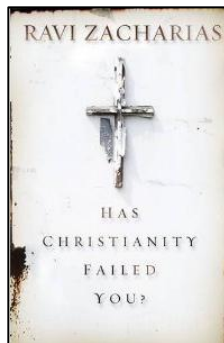
Message Purpose: To provide teaching, information and encouragement so that you need not be troubled by these objections. Secondly that in conversation with others you might have a reasonable response to offer. Third that if these objections are somehow preventing you from moving forward in faith that those barriers would begin to be taken down.

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Some books by helpful books by Ravi Zacharias:



*Why Jesus, 2012*  
*Has Christianity Failed You?, 2010*  
*The End of Reason, 2008*



*Can man Live without God, 2004*  
*Jesus Among Other Gods, 2002*