

Truth Vs. Tolerance

The primary virtue of the postmodern age is tolerance, but with a new definition. Tolerance no longer means allowing legal religious freedom for all, treating people of different religions with respect and gentleness, and opposing persecution or discrimination.

The “modern’ definition of tolerance in this “postmodern age means considering all views equally valid. We must not only accept and be nice to those with different views, we must refrain from any attempt, however gently or reasonably (a “bad word” to postmoderns), to change their mind. Any suggestion that one view is better than another or, especially that one is true and the other is false, is “intolerant.”

Influenced by this prevailing attitude, many modern evangelicals in television interviews equivocate when asked whether Jesus Christ is the only way to salvation. Jesus, of course, said he was. Some of “us” equivocate when asked whether baptism is necessary to salvation.

Presenting a positive image has become more important to some than biblical truth.

The Old Paths

“Thus says the Lord: ‘Stand by the roads, and look, and ask for the ancient paths, where the good way is; and walk in it , and find rest for your souls.’ But they said, ‘We will not walk in it.’” (Jer. 6:16)

A good preaching test, often used! I like the ESV translation, “ancient paths.” Jeremiah’s paths were the ways of the law of Moses.

The paths it seems some would call us to as our model for today are not “old” enough. The ways of the 1940’s and 50’s are not our standard.

Neither are the paths discovered and trod by the Stones and Campbells. We are not called to restore the 19th century restoration movement.

What we should restore is what those Christians of the 19th and 20th centuries were trying to restore: the church as Jesus and the apostles were calling it in the Scriptures to be.

Only paths as ancient as the New Testament are old enough to require that we walk therein.

—Both articles above were written by **Cecil May Jr.** and appeared in the July issue of *Preacher Talk*, a newsletter edited by brother May.