

Be Tolerant... and other Weird Ideas

By Chuck Edwards  Summit Ministries  www.summit.org
Director of Bible Study Curriculum

INTRODUCTION

2 Timothy 2:24-26: **Set the Captives Free**

"And the Lord's servant must not quarrel... Those who oppose him he must *gently instruct*... leading them to a *knowledge of the truth*... and that they will come to their senses and escape from the *trap of the devil*, who has taken them *captive* to do his will."

2 Corinthians 10:3-5

"For though we live in the world, we do not wage war as the world does. 4 The weapons we fight with are not the weapons of the world. On the contrary, they have divine power to demolish strongholds. We demolish arguments and every pretension that sets itself up against the knowledge of God, and we take captive every thought to make it obedient to Christ."

Ask Discerning QUESTIONS

- What do you mean by _____?
- How have you come to that CONCLUSION?
- Have you CONSIDERED . . . ?
 - Offer a critique
 - Offer an alternative

EXAMPLE #1: "All religions lead to the same god."

Comparing religions:

- Confucius
- Buddha
- Mohammed
- Jesus

EXAMPLE #2: "That's true for you but not for me."

"Truth is relative" is an absurd statement!

EXAMPLE #3: "You shouldn't force your morality on others."

WHEN THEY SAY. . .	YOU ASK. . .
"All religions lead to the same god."	"What god are you referring to?"
"That may be true for you but not for me."	"Is that true for me as well as for you?"
"There is no truth."	"Is that true?"
"You cannot know truth for sure."	"Are you sure?"
"You should not force your morality on others."	"Are you forcing your moral view on me?"
"Everyone is biased."	"Does that statement come from your personal bias? Then how do you know it applies to me?"
"That's just <i>your</i> interpretation."	"Is that just your interpretation of my statements? Do you mean that <i>your</i> interpretation should be preferred over mine? Why?"
"Reason does not apply to ultimate reality, i.e., God."	"Is that a reasonable statement about ultimate reality? If reason does not apply to ultimate reality, than you could not make that statement."
"We make our own reality."	"Do you look both ways before crossing a street? Why?"
"You can't trust your senses."	"Should I trust what I hear you say?"
"God is evolving, progressing."	"How can we know God is getting more perfect or better unless we know what is perfect? That unchanging perfect standard by which we measure progress toward the good is, by definition, God."
"We are all god."	"Are you absolute being? Did you always realize you were God? If, not, than can God change? If not, then you are not God."

For additional practical suggestions for responding to the mental befuddlement of your peers, read the following books by Norman Geisler: *When Skeptics Ask*, *Unshakable Foundations*, or *Apologetics in the New Age*, or Paul Copan's works: *True For You, But Not For Me*, or *That's Just Your Interpretation*.

TRUE FREEDOM COMES FROM KNOWING THE TRUTH

John 8:31-32 — *"Jesus said, "If you hold to my teaching, you are really my disciples. Then you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free." (NIV)*