
Truth and Tolerance in a Whatever World

I. CHRISTIANITY TODAY

A. People no longer think Christians are just irrational, also but *immoral* and *dangerous*.

1. Christians make *judgements* about people and behaviors.
2. Christians make *exclusive* claims about truth.

II. ICE CREAM AND INSULIN

A. Two kinds of truths:

1. *Subjective* truth: Like ice cream, you *choose what you like*.
2. *Objective* truth: Like insulin, you choose *what is right or true*.

III. RELATIVISM AND TWO CONSEQUENCES

A. Relativism defined:

1. The view that truth, knowledge, and morality are relative to individuals or society
2. The denial of objective truth
3. Relativism treats morality and religion like ice cream. You just pick what you like.

B. **Consequence #1: Relativism undermines sin and the gospel.**

1. If morals are relative, there's no sin and no need for a savior.

C. **Consequence #2: Relativism undermines mission.**

1. If all religions are true, there's no need to "make disciples of all nations."

IV. A TACTIC THAT HELPS

A. Taking the Roof Off (*reductio ad absurdum*)

B. Three steps to take the roof off:

1. Adopt the other person's view for the sake of argument.
2. Follow their view to its logical, but absurd conclusion.
3. Ask a question that *graciously* exposes the absurdity of their view.

C. Take the roof off moral relativism

1. People can talk like moral relativism is true, but they can't live like it's true.

D. Take the roof off religious pluralism

1. Different religions contradict each other in fundamental ways.

V. THE TOLERANCE TRICK

A. Two definitions of "tolerance"

1. Culture's definition – agreement with people or ideas
2. Real definition – disagreement with people or ideas, but still respecting them

VI. CONCLUSION

A. Both morality and religion make *objective* truth claims.

B. Only one religion offers a pardon for breaking objective morals.