

Christians May Be Crazy Aren't Christians Intolerant Bigots?

September 05, 2021

Once upon a time, a Christian historian wrote of Christians, "My how they love one another." That's not exactly the reputation Christians have in today's world. In fact, it's kinda the opposite. The question we have to ask is, "Are they right?"

Acts 19:8–20

Bigot: A person who is obstinately or unreasonably attached to a belief, opinion, or faction, especially one who is prejudiced against or antagonistic toward a person or people on the basis of their membership of a particular group. (Dictionary.com)

1. By today's definitions, _____ would be called a bigot.
2. Bigotry sets _____ against another in _____ ways.
3. Christians don't have to agree, but we may never be _____.

My Count Me In! Commitment

I'll do the Bible Study (on the back of this worksheet) this week.

Additional Notes

Digging Deeper

Week of September 05, 2021

Christians Might Be Crazy: Are We Intolerant Bigots?

Scripture: Acts 19:8–20

Introduction: We've all seen bigots at their worst. They're not nice people to be around. And yet, they are absolutely convinced that their viewpoint is the right one. How different is that from a devout Christian who is equally convinced that their viewpoint is right, and by extension, other viewpoints are not? In a world where tolerance is defined as "You must agree that I'm right too," regardless of how ridiculous that may seem to us, it can be very difficult to navigate the world of faith faithfully.

1. Read Acts 19:8–10. Who comes across as more "bigoted" in this passage? Those who maligned The Way or Paul who walked out and refused to deal with the synagogue leaders?
2. Read 19:11–16. Why do you think the demon possessed man attacked the sons of Sceva?
3. Dr. Bill pointed out that the church would have been seriously opposed to witchcraft and sorcery. And yet, the church was surrounded by pagans who practiced that very thing. Why do you think the church didn't somehow "deal" with the issue? (Or at least publicly campaign against it?)
4. Read 19:17–20. How did the church deal with the new believers who had been involved with witchcraft?
5. Read John 14:6. Jesus boldly proclaimed that he provided the only way to the Father in heaven. Dr. Bill pointed out that by today's definition of bigotry, Jesus would fit into that mold. How was Jesus *like* a bigot ... and how was he unlike a bigot?
6. We live in a culture where tolerance equals acquiescence – an agreement that those whom we disagree with are equally right (especially morally right). Do you think it's possible to label someone's belief as wrong or incompatible with Christian faith and not be labeled as an intolerant bigot? If so, how? If not, why not?
7. Read Isaiah 5:20. The prophet was preaching about members of the congregation who were justifying the ways of their culture that were contrary to scripture. Do you think his words apply to today? Why or why not?