

If you hold to certain beliefs, you will likely be labeled intolerant or arrogant at some point—no matter how loving and respectful you are. But as Christ-followers, we ought to treat people with gentleness and respect no matter how they treat or view us, while always being prepared to give an answer for our beliefs.

Discussion Questions

- 1. How do you treat people with whom you disagree?
- 2. If someone approached you and said, "Why do you believe in Jesus Christ?" what would you say?
- 3. Tolerance used to mean that you disagreed with a person but did so in a respectful way; today, its meaning has changed entirely. Discuss the words *tolerance* vs. *intolerance*. Why are so many Christians labeled as intolerant these days?
- 4. In what ways has God been tolerant of and patient with you? How can you start to apply that same tolerance, with love and grace, to people you encounter?

Challenge

Spend time reflecting on a solid answer to question two, above, so that you are prepared when someone asks you why you believe what you do. Do some research, write it out, and start sharing it with friends so you're comfortable in sharing it with others.

Commit to Memory

Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have. But do this with gentleness and respect. 1 Peter 3:15