



The Intolerant God

1. When have you felt the most free, unrestricted? Describe your thoughts, emotions, and actions at that time.
2. In chapter 3 of the Reason for God, Timothy Keller responds to criticism of absolute truth. He contends that in opposing the validity of a claim of absolute truth, the critic is necessarily making a truth claim of his own. As an example, Keller points to democratic values. “Western society is based on shared commitments to reason, rights, and justice even though there is no universally recognized definition of ... any of these” (p. 39). Do you agree that the values of Western democracy constitute a type of secular absolute truth, and that adhering to the rightness of those values is no different than a Christian holding to the truth claims of Scripture? Why or why not?
3. Foucault said, “Truth is a thing of this world. It is produced only by multiple forms of constraint and that includes the regular effects of power”. Many have concluded from this that all truth-telling claims are power plays. Have you ever experienced a person’s truth claim as a power play? Have you had a positive experience with a truth claim?
4. “The idea of a totally inclusive community is... an illusion”. Do you agree or disagree? Think of the most inclusive community that you have been involved in. What are the marks of such a community? Was it “totally inclusive”?
5. “In many areas of life, freedom is not so much the absence of restrictions as finding the right ones, the liberating restrictions”. What are examples of “liberating restrictions” that you can point to in your own life?
6. “Freedom is not the absence of limitations and constraints... but it is finding the right ones, those that fit our nature and liberate us”. Do you agree? If so, should the church be in the business of helping others find such “right” constraints?
7. Read Philippians 2:1-8 and Luke 6:27-37. If Jesus is God, what type of God is he according to these passage?
8. How might you become more like Jesus in your life?