Tolerance or Intolerance?
Acts 4:1-12

Peter declares that Jesus Christ alone provides the gift of salvation. Our world may attempt to ban, blend, or even bury such statements of exclusivity in constant calls for tolerance. Yet, the greatest kindness we can demonstrate to others is a willingness to boldly proclaim Jesus no matter the cost!

Religion’s Exclusivity

“I am the way, and the truth, and the life; no one comes to the Father but through Me.” - John 14:6

- **Salvation is a Gift Received**
  “For by grace you have been saved through faith; and that not of yourselves, it is the gift of God; not as a result of works.” - Ephesians 2:8-9

- **From the only God/Man**

The World’s Reaction

- **Fearing Violence ... Ban It!**
  “Religious exclusivity is not just narrow – it’s dangerous. Religion has led to untold strife, division, and conflict. It may be the greatest enemy of peace in the world. If Christians continue to insist that they have ‘the truth’ – and if other religions do this as well – the world will never know peace.”

  “20th century gave rise to one of the greatest and most distressing paradoxes of human history: that the greatest intolerance and violence of that century was practiced by those that believed religion caused intolerance & violence.” - Alister McGrath

- **Fearing Usurp ... Blend It!**
  o “All major religions are equally valid and basically teach the same thing.”
  o “Each religion sees part of the truth but none can see the whole.”
  o “Religious belief is too culturally and historically conditioned to be ‘truth.’”
  o “Religious belief is a matter of personal and private opinion and should not therefore enter the public arena.”

Our Response Today ...

- **Boldly Proclaim Jesus**

- **Brace Yourself ...**
  o It isn’t Personal.
  o God is Still in Control.
  o Training is Devotional.

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1 From the book The Reason for God by Timothy Keller; Quote from responses to the question “What troubles you most about Christianity?” This response was from a young British man living in New York City.