

BUILDING CHARACTER, FAMILY AND COMMUNITY

A Community where good character is encouraged, recognized, and rewarded; where character awareness is a high priority; and where modeling of character is valued.

February 2017

Tolerance vs. Prejudice

“Realizing that everyone is at varying levels of character development”

Tolerancia vs. Prejuicio

“Entender que cada persona se encuentra en diferente nivel de desarrollo de su carácter”

“Tolerance comes with age. I see no fault committed that I myself could not have committed at some time or other.”

— Johann Wolfgang Von Goethe



"Promoting Character & Community"

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Growing Tolerance

Trees and other plants grow together and influence one another in a forest. Similarly, humans interact with and influence one another in their homes, communities, and workplaces. Just as a tree begins as a little seed and grows throughout its life, you should begin where you are and develop good character throughout your life. In the process, you will encounter individuals at all stages of development and some stunted and twisted by poor choices.

These encounters provide opportunities to exercise tolerance. They can provide good examples, and they can warn of danger. But as soon as you condemn another or congratulate yourself on your superiority, you reveal your own struggles. Ultimately, your job is not to change others but to help provide an environment in which they can make good decisions.

Listen carefully as you work with others. No matter how gruff the message, you can glean wisdom and learn to communicate with those of differing perspectives.

When working with someone who thinks or works differently, a person can show tolerance by trying to understand the other person’s perspective and motivations.

Tolerant individuals understand they are rooted to the same soil as those around them. Thus, tolerant persons recognize how they too fall short of good character, and they exercise patience with others while working to uphold the standard in practice and policy.

Set high standards, and motivate yourself and others to reach them.

KEY CONCEPTS OF TOLERANCE

Look Beyond Appearances

Step back and ask yourself whether you really understand. Is your coworker upset with you, or frustrated by a bad day?

Examine Yourself

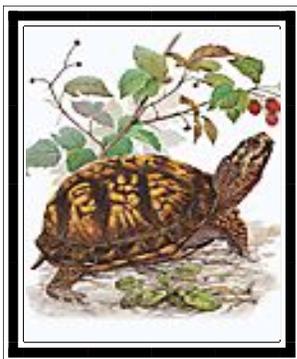
How others irritate you often reflects your character flaws. Use these moments or relationships as opportunities to evaluate your attitudes.

Give Room to Grow

In order to provide an environment in which others can succeed, give them opportunities to learn from mistakes.

Maintain the Standard

Tolerance requires the humility to recognize you could be wrong, the drive to understand the other person, and the conviction to value integrity and excellence.



Tolerance in Nature

The box turtle, with its protective shell, is a picture of tolerance. Rather than fighting back against assailants, it pulls inside its shell, where it remains safe until the danger has passed.

Tolerance at Home

When viewing automotive designs, movies, or books, a person can overlook the hours of effort required to deliver the finished product.

During the creative process, developers raise many ideas, try some, and scrap most as they work around economic realities, differing opinions, and time constraints. Each step requires project adjustments and patience with others.

Similarly, shopping, helping family members wash dishes, or camping also require tolerance if you are to live and work peacefully together.

*“Achieving True Success —
How to Build Character
as a Family”*
is available for purchase at
cost for \$6 at
Owasso City Hall.