



# Is It Wrong To Be Narrow-Minded?

DISCOVERING GOD'S WORD BIBLE STUDY SERIES

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Many people are “narrow-minded.” To be narrow-minded is to be unwilling to accept beliefs, ideas, and lifestyles different from your own. It is to be intolerant of anything that is different from what you believe and how you live. Therefore, in a society that celebrates tolerance and embraces all kinds of different beliefs and lifestyles, those who are perceived as being narrow-minded are often subject to ridicule and persecution. So, we should consider whether it is wrong to be narrow-minded.

**1) Yes, if it means that you will not accept truth.** The Bible does *not* approve of those who are not willing to accept truth because it does not agree with what they have believed or practiced in the past. Many are not willing to change what they believe if it goes against what their parents believed. Many are not willing to change what they believe if it goes against their church’s doctrines. Many are not willing to change what they believe if it goes against their traditions. Many are not willing to change what they believe if it goes against the majority opinion. Many are not willing to change what they believe if it makes them uncomfortable. These are unwilling to change what they believe no matter what evidence is presented to them that demonstrates they believe or practice something contrary to the truth that God has revealed in His word.

Many are like the people who stoned Steven as he had been teaching the truth of the gospel. Acts 7:51-53 says, “You stiff-necked and uncircumcised in heart and ears! You always resist the Holy Spirit; as your fathers did, so do you. Which of the prophets did your fathers not persecute? And they killed those who foretold the coming of the Just One, of whom you now have become the betrayers and murders, who have received the law by the direction of angels and have not kept it.” They were just as guilty as their fathers who were before them of being narrow-minded and not accepting the truth. Instead they “stopped their ears” and eventually killed him (see Acts 7:54-60). Unlike these people, we should always be willing to listen to ideas and examine whether they are true or not.

**2) No, if it means that you will only accept truth.** The Bible *does* approve of those who are only willing to accept the truth that God has revealed. These are not willing to accept the

worship and service of false gods because it goes against what the Bible teaches. These are not willing to accept false doctrines because they go against what the Bible teaches. These are not willing to accept “alternate lifestyles” that involve people having sexual relations outside of marriage, adultery, homosexuality, etc. because they go against what the Bible teaches. These are not willing to accept those who consume alcoholic beverages because it goes against what the Bible teaches. These are not willing to accept immodest dress because it goes against what the Bible teaches. These are not willing to accept *anything* that goes against what the Bible teaches.

Although many people will ridicule such “narrow-minded” people, these people are actually pleasing to God and have the correct view of the world. You see, Jesus has taught us to adopt a *narrow* view of the world regarding what is right and who will go to Heaven. He said, “Enter by the narrow gate; for wide is the gate and broad is the way that leads to destruction, and there are many who go in by it. Because narrow is the gate and difficult is the way which leads to life, and there are few who find it” (Matthew 7:13-14).

Our minds should be shaped by the truth that God has revealed. God’s word is truth (John 17:17) and it is the only thing that will set us free from sin through the blood of Jesus Christ (John 8:32). We should be open-minded to always challenge what we believe and practice to make sure that it is according to God’s word. But, we should be narrow-minded to only accept what God’s word teaches and approves as truth!

**Discovering God’s Word Bible Study Series**

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