

Gospel Doctrine Sunday School Lesson

The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, Slippery Rock Branch

Volume 3, Issue 32

Today's Word: tolerance

Sept. 2, 2007

Are You:

- Magnifying Your Callings?
- Living in and by the Spirit?

Today's Scriptures

Acts 18:23–20:38

Galatians

Next Week:

Lesson 33:

“Ye Are the Temple
of God”

1 Corinthians 1-6

W.W. Austin
Gospel Doctrine Teacher
wendywarrenaustin@hotmail.com
<http://ideawarehouse.blogspot.com>

Lesson 32: “Live in the Spirit”



<http://www.rice.edu/projects/code/presentat/paul.jpg>

This is a picture of an oil painting, *Saint Paul Writing His Epistle*, by either Valentin de Boulogne (ca 1594-1632) or Nicolas Tournier (1590-1638), [Saint Paul Writing His Epistles](#) (1620). from the Blaffer Foundation Collection, Houston, TX.

Questions to Ponder

- What manifestations of the Holy Ghost are frequently experienced today?
- How can we guard against apostasy in our lives?

Tolerance and Love

Russell M. Nelson, speaking on the topic of “tolerance—a virtue much needed in our turbulent world,” stressed that “we must recognize at the outset that there is a difference between *tolerance* and *tolerate*. Your gracious tolerance for an individual does not grant him or her license to do wrong, nor does your tolerance obligate you to tolerate his or her misdeed. That distinction is fundamental to an understanding of this vital virtue. . . While we strive for the virtue of tolerance, other commendable qualities need not be lost. Tolerance does not require the surrender of noble purpose or of individual identity. The Lord gave instruction to leaders of His restored church to establish and maintain institutional integrity—“that the church may stand independent.”. . .

“Now may I offer an important note of caution. An erroneous assumption could be made that if a little of something is good, a lot must be better. Not so! Overdoses of needed medication can be toxic. Boundless mercy could oppose justice. So tolerance, without limit, could lead to spineless permissiveness.

“The Lord drew boundary lines to define acceptable limits of tolerance. Danger rises when those divine limits are disobeyed. (Russell M. Nelson, “Teach Us Tolerance and Love,” *Ensign*, May 1994, 69).

Elder Marvin J. Ashton taught:

“When others disagree with our stand we should not argue, retaliate in kind, or contend with them. . . Ours is to explain our position through reason, friendly persuasion, and accurate facts. Ours is to stand firm and unyielding on the moral issues of the day and the eternal principles of the gospel, but to contend with no man or organization. Contention builds walls and puts up barriers. Love opens doors. . . Contention never was and never will be an ally of progress” (*Ensign*, May 1978, 7–8).



Fruit of the Spirit

- love;
- joy;
- peace;
- patience;
- kindness;
- goodness;
- faithfulness;
- gentleness;
- self-control.