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**DISCUSSION GUIDE – Based on the 3-minute video at OverflowToday.com titled:**

## **You're Wrong to Convert Others!**

Featured is Paul Copan, author of the book TRUE FOR YOU BUT NOT FOR ME, from Bethany House Publishers. Filmed at "The Awakening" apologetics conference at Calvary Chapel, Costa Mesa, CA.

### **Section 1**

Discuss what you applied in the past seven days from the last OverflowToday show.

Read 2 Corinthians 5:11-21. From these verses, how would you describe scripture's answer to the statement: "You are wrong to try to convert others."

### **Section 2**

Watch the podcast entitled "You're Wrong to Convert Others!" at <http://OverflowToday.com>

### **Section 3**

What did you think? What stood out to you as you watched this?

The first focus of this edition of OverflowToday is this charge that is brought to Christians:

"What right do you have to try to convert others to your point of view?" Or...

"You are wrong for trying to convert others to your views."

How does Copan see the above as self-contradictory charge?

*The person who charges: "You are wrong for trying to convert others to your views," is trying to convert you to his view that you shouldn't try to convert others to your view. So it is an inconsistent, self-defeating charge.*

What are some reasons that Copan gave as important and positive reasons to tell others about our faith?

*We're letting them know that we've found something good.*

*Like one beggar telling another beggar where to find bread.*

*It's not like I'm better than you.*

*I'm a person in great need, too, just like we all are, so I'm passing this on to you and hope it will help you, too.*

*It's similar to if I found a good restaurant and I want you to know. I'm not better than you because I eat there and you don't.*

How did Copan explain that this person who sees himself as open minded and relativistic is actually a person who unknowingly believes in right and wrong?

*This person is saying it's immoral to convert someone to your point of view. But where did that standard come from? You can't have such standards in a relativistic culture.*

*The person who says, "You shouldn't convert others" is taking a firm stance on what he feels is right and wrong.*

*So he is doing the same sort of thing that is accusing the Christian of doing. He's saying that certain things are wrong. Saying that you should not do certain things and that you should not impose views upon others. Yet he is imposing his view.*

The second charge that Copan addressed was this one:

"You Christians are intolerant for believing that!"

According to Copan, what does **false** tolerance look like?

*False tolerance is accepting all views as true. This means that I'm calling two different views that contradict each other as both being true. If you call something or someone "wrong," then today's false tolerance resorts to name calling, and brands you as "INTOLERANT!"*

How did Copan contrast **false** tolerance with **true** tolerance?

*True tolerance – Putting up with people who I disagree with or who have ideas that I consider false.*

*It's accepting the person that I disagree with.*

*I don't have to collapse my beliefs to be able to have relationship with that person. I can agree to disagree with that person but we can still dialogue and be friends. Even though we disagree, we don't need to part company.*

## **Section 4**

Discuss some ways we could apply a few of these principles in the next 7 days.

*One suggestion (if needed):*

*Go talk to two friends, co-workers, or neighbors and ask them:*

*a. In our weekly discussion group we are surveying the opinions of our friends regarding bad things they see in the world right now. What are some things that you see people doing to others that are wrong and that should not be done?*

*b. Do you feel that government or friends of these wrongdoers should try to change the behavior of these people?*

*c. Would you consider it wrong to try to convert these people to a different point of view or behavior?*

*d. Would you call those people "intolerant" who would try to convert the wrongdoers to a different point of view or behavior?*

*e. Have you ever heard the contrast made between "false tolerance" and "true tolerance"?*

*Thank them for their opinion. Wait for them to possibly ask what you are hearing from others, or perhaps what your opinion is. Consider asking them a second question: "Have you ever heard what Jesus Christ's views were on the idea of trying to convert people to another point of view?" If they are open to hearing, show them or quote to them Matthew 28:18-20.*

<sup>18</sup>Then Jesus came to them and said, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. <sup>19</sup>Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in <sup>[a]</sup>the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, <sup>20</sup>and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age." (NIV)

Meet back next week to report on what happened.

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