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### Tolerance in harmony with Humanity

1. I'd like to assume that peace and unity is something we as humans all want and we've all been guilty by overcomplicating how to attain that goal. Peace and unity is difficult to achieve sometimes and it's up to us a society to do our best to demonstrate that everlasting peace and unity for our world can be possible. We all have our differences and learning how to make a choice to either respect and genuinely listen to others is a huge step. The right step to learn from our brothers and sisters is tolerance. Tolerance is key because it's human nature to dislike people sometimes even if you can't find the reason why you may dislike a person,

2. As Christians we're taught to love God and love people. That concept is easier to abide by when your younger and it's crucial for us to keep that in mind especially if we make a mistake and mistreat someone whether if it's out of hate or lack of respect. As Christians we're also aware that God is merciful even when we have not been our best selves and we crave mercy along with his love because we want second chances to feel or become made new. There's no better feeling than being forgiven by God along with doing our part to be obedient. If this merciful experience rejuvenates us than why is it hard to be merciful and loving towards others when we as Christians constantly crave those needs from God. I have been guilty of making this mistake and it gave me a better insight on why it's important to reciprocate kindness, love, and tolerance to others that I would hope to experience myself from any stranger.

3. Sometimes I think Christians get overlooked as judgmental people who perhaps put on a façade that they are loving to others. One way I can see how some people would make that assumption. On the other hand I can't fully blame others for seeing us Christians that way. We're

all guilty of judging others and we can do better by adapting our spiritual lives more by genuinely trying to love others and learn about their circumstances instead of putting on a façade of being loving and secretly gossiping or judging others in silence. The goal would be to avoid being too faced in Christ and obtaining to be tolerant like the way Jesus Christ is with us along with his love and mercy. How can a nonbeliever see the Christ in us if we lack on abiding on the Love God and People concept. We can always do our best to make room for tolerance especially for nonbelievers and people who are different than us in an authentic manner. Along with aiming to allow them to show you who they are so that they can be able to see the God in you and feel accepted or acknowledged.

4. Christians can be ambassadors and include the world in their embrace by learning how to create an atmosphere of unity with anyone they encounter. Prince Talal said it best when he mentioned “Learning more about each other while respecting differences promotes pluralism and unity” in *The Peacebuilding Prince* article/interview. Investing our time to build community is another great way to honor and spend time with God. After all none of us are perfect except for him. We are known by God as Christians and since he created us all it’s time we treat nonbelievers like the children of God that they are and do our part to understand their upbringing, family values and beliefs.

5. I liked when Prince Talal mentioned “Today, I show my respect of the other by talking about monotheistic faiths in the context of a broader partnership for humanity, involving Christians, Muslims, Jews, and nonbelievers for that matter”. Talal’s quote demonstrates how we should learn to reach out to our brothers and sisters instead of demanding them to understand us. We wouldn’t want nonbelievers to feel as if our religion appears superior to nonbelievers by allowing them to feel threatened. Sadly society and the media sometimes garners hate or create

xenophobia towards countries or a particular culture or race. The media still does this and it puts us backwards to create the harmony of peace and unity that we wish to see.

6. One of my best friends is Muslim and she's aware that I have a Christian faith background. Surprisingly, she opened up to me about her also believing in God. I guess what shocked me is that I always believed that only Christian faith or Catholics believed in God opposed to other creeds that are not monotheistic. Overall I admire the tolerance in our friendship when it comes to our beliefs because we are constantly learning new things about each other. I admire that even though she's dedicated to her beliefs that she's still the most exceptional prayer warrior that I have ever met who constantly values prayer. I'm dedicated to my Christian faith and she's dedicated to being Muslim yet we don't force each other to convert to our religious backgrounds instead we respect it.

7. Representation holds value to us all. In today's society representation in the media is very important. A lot of young people speak up to encourage the media to recognize nationalities and cultures that are usually overlooked for the wrong reasons in society. Representation creates acknowledgement and pride towards a nation or culture. Better source of representation especially in the media would be a great step to approach people of nationalities. Another great effect is allowing nationalities to feel involved within their communities to create diversity.

8. I don't think we can ever finally know everything about a cultural understanding. There's always so much to learn about a culture and the rich history behind it. Of course a lot of us are mostly familiar about our own traditions and cultural understandings. Yet there's more to learn about backgrounds and history and more will happen as we live on to share it with the next generation. In the meantime we should strive to learn about other cultural understandings that differ from our own instead of the media's assumption on it.

9. If I were to meet prince Talal I would complement him on his mindset for unity. I would mention to him how well he went all out in depth for the peacebuilding prince article and interview. He gave thorough details and it's great how he mentioned the struggling parts too. The struggle and misunderstanding of different cultures demonstrates how we have a long way to go in society to accept each other. Peace is so far away because of how we allowed society and the media create it to be.

10. Ultimately, the peacebuilding prince article resonates with my experience for my music of diverse cultures class. This was my first semester at Nyack College and it's wonderful that my music diverse class helped made us feel equipped to be tolerant towards others. The sooner we build these God loving values we can immediately apply it towards others. I never knew the value of tolerance until now and I feel inspired to remind others the importance of it and to apply it to my spiritual journey as much as possible. Peace and unity seems impossible sometimes yet when we serve a God who does the impossible and as we do our best to be loving and kind we're able to surpass the impossible and represent God in a graceful manner.