



**Scriptures:** John 4:1-26, John 14:6, Matthew 22:37-40

**Main Idea:** In a world filled with diverse beliefs and worldviews, can we truly coexist with those who think differently? This message challenges us to move beyond surface-level tolerance and explore what it means to love others in truth, following Jesus' example with the Samaritan woman. Jesus didn't shy away from differences but approached them with compassion and a commitment to truth, offering living water—spiritual renewal and life. As Christians, we are called to love our neighbors while holding fast to the truth of Christ, sharing it with care and within genuine relationships.

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Hello students! I'm so glad you could be with us as we take some time to wrestle with the question, can we coexist? My name is \_\_\_\_\_ and I am so happy to share God's Word with you today. We are going to be wrestling through the question, and more specifically, can we coexist if we don't believe the same thing?

Let's pray to start our time. [\[Pray here.\]](#)

Have you ever seen a bumper sticker that says "Coexist" but rather than letters, it is a bunch of different religious symbols. [\[Pull up a picture of the Co-Exist Sticker by simply typing "Coexist bumper sticker" into web browser.\]](#) This small sticker spans a number of different religions and positions.

- C is the Crescent Moon for Islam.
- O is the Peace Symbol
- E is the equation  $E=mc^2$  or a gender equality symbol
- X is the Star of David for Judaism
- I is the Pagan/Wiccan symbol
- S is the Yin-Yang symbol for Taosim
- T is the Cross for Christianity

The message of this simple sticker is tolerance, inclusivity, and harmony among diverse religions, beliefs, and worldviews. The question we are

going to wrestle through, is can we coexist if we don't believe the same things?

To truly answer this question, we have to define what we mean by coexisting. Does coexisting mean have love and respect for someone else even if they don't believe what you do? Or does coexisting mean that you openly support them in their beliefs even if you disagree?

Maybe we need to dig deeper than tolerance, inclusivity, and harmony to have love for one another. What does it look like for you to love someone who does not have the same beliefs as you?

Let's take a look at the example of Jesus and how He interacted with a woman of different belief. Open your Bibles to John 4:1-26 (NIV)

*Now Jesus learned that the Pharisees had heard that he was gaining and baptizing more disciples than John— although in fact it was not Jesus who baptized, but his disciples. So he left Judea and went back once more to Galilee.*

*Now he had to go through Samaria. So he came to a town in Samaria called Sychar, near the plot of ground Jacob had given to his son Joseph. Jacob's well was there, and Jesus, tired as he was from the journey, sat down by the well. It was about noon.*

*When a Samaritan woman came to draw water, Jesus said to her, "Will you give me a drink?" (His disciples had gone into the town to buy food.)*

*The Samaritan woman said to him, "You are a Jew and I am a Samaritan woman. How can you ask me for a drink?" (For Jews do not associate with Samaritans.)*

*Jesus answered her, "If you knew the gift of God and who it is that asks you for a drink, you would have asked him and he would have given you living water."*

*"Sir," the woman said, "you have nothing to draw with and the well is deep. Where can you get this living water? Are you greater than our father Jacob, who gave us the well and drank from it himself, as did also his sons and his livestock?"*

*Jesus answered, “Everyone who drinks this water will be thirsty again, but whoever drinks the water I give them will never thirst. Indeed, the water I give them will become in them a spring of water welling up to eternal life.”*

*The woman said to him, “Sir, give me this water so that I won’t get thirsty and have to keep coming here to draw water.”*

*He told her, “Go, call your husband and come back.”*

*“I have no husband,” she replied.*

*Jesus said to her, “You are right when you say you have no husband. The fact is, you have had five husbands, and the man you now have is not your husband. What you have just said is quite true.”*

*“Sir,” the woman said, “I can see that you are a prophet. Our ancestors worshiped on this mountain, but you Jews claim that the place where we must worship is in Jerusalem.”*

*“Woman,” Jesus replied, “believe me, a time is coming when you will worship the Father neither on this mountain nor in Jerusalem. You Samaritans worship what you do not know; we worship what we do know, for salvation is from the Jews. Yet a time is coming and has now come when the true worshipers will worship the Father in the Spirit and in truth, for they are the kind of worshipers the Father seeks. God is spirit, and his worshipers must worship in the Spirit and in truth.”*

*The woman said, “I know that Messiah” (called Christ) “is coming. When he comes, he will explain everything to us.”*

*Then Jesus declared, “I, the one speaking to you—I am he.”*

Now before we talk about what Jesus said, let’s unpack some of the background. Jesus was at the well and He interacted with a Samaritan. The term Samaritan” comes from the Hebrew word meaning “watcher” or “guard,” which reflects some of the historical and cultural tensions surrounding this group of people. The Samaritans emerged during the Babylonian oppression, forming a distinct ethnic and religious identity. They are often described as being of mixed heritage—part Israelite and part Babylonian.

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