

Extremism

Pray that people may work to understand Jesus' real teachings, and use them to show love for each other.



Pope Benedict is asking us to pray for something very important this month. *Extremism* is a big word, but it's not hard to understand what it means.

Extremism is when a person uses their beliefs as a reason to act mean or even violent toward other people. Sometimes people – even Christians – can misunderstand Jesus' message and hurt others.

Throughout history there are many examples of people being mean and violent in the name of religion. Often people think that in order to teach others about their religion, they have to hurt others or force them to do things they don't want to do.

Jesus' message is very simple. He asks us to love one another. He wants us to work together to find fairness and peace. He never forced anyone to believe in him, or used violence to make people understand his message.

Pope Benedict wants us to pray this month that people of all peaceful religions may be respectful of other believers, and that Christians behave as Jesus did – with love, peace, and understanding.

Think about it!

- What is extremism?
- What does Jesus teach about love?
- How can you show your respect for non-Christians?

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