

Chuck Hurley talks 'religious tolerance' on KCRG-TV

The FAMILY LEADER's Chuck Hurley appeared on KCRG's Ethical Principles on The News episode "What Does Religious Tolerance Mean Today?" with moderator Leon Tabak on July 23. Joining Hurley on the show, representing the Muslim community, was Imam Hassan M. Selim from the Islamic Center of Cedar Rapids and from the Jewish community, Rabbi Todd Thalblum of temple Judah also in Cedar Rapids.

During the episode, the representatives discussed topics like division in America and how we can tolerate or respect people with views and religious beliefs that differ from our own.

When discussing whether store owners have the right to refuse custom services that violate their conscience, like in the Masterpiece Cakeshop of Colorado incident where the owner refused to make a custom cake for a same-sex wedding ceremony, views around the table differed.

Rabbi Thalblum argued Masterpiece Cakeshop's refusal amounted to illegal discrimination, claiming store owners are obligated to serve the public. Chuck Hurley countered that the State of Colorado's punishment of the cakeshop infringed upon on the store owner's right of conscience and religious liberty.

"My view is all Americans should be able to live and work according to the dictates of their conscience without fear of unjust government punishment," Hurley said.

At the conclusion of the half-hour discussion, the differing views came together to agree on one thing: respect. Although they, and the rest of the nation, may disagree with one another, it's important that we still respect each other.

"We're supposed to love our neighbor even if we disagree with

them,” said Hurley, vice president and chief counsel of The FAMIly LEADER. “Is it difficult? Yes. Vital? Absolutely.”

“Its OK to have differences,” said Selim, “as long we know how to express them and listen to each other.”

Watch the full episode and hear what Hurley and the other guests said below: