

## **“Who Do You Love the Most?”**

Matthew 10:34-42

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The world values peace and harmony above all else – isn't that's what religion should be?

But that's not true is it? Religions are often criticized for divisiveness

So many messages about peace are simply trite clichés

Jesus has a different message. “Do not think that I have come to bring peace on earth. I have not come to bring peace but a sword” (v. 34)

To understand this, we need to hear Jesus' other teachings about peace.

Isaiah 9:6 “His name will be called... Prince of Peace.”

Colossians 1:19–20 For in him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell, <sup>20</sup> and through him to reconcile to himself all things, whether on earth or in heaven, making peace by the blood of his cross.

Romans 5:1 Therefore, since we have been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ.

John 14:27 Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. Not as the world gives do I give to you. Let not your hearts be troubled, neither let them be afraid.

John 20:21 Jesus said to them again, “Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, even so I am sending you.”

Peace is one of the Fruits of the Spirit (Gal 5:22)

Earlier in this section, He sent His disciples out with a message of peace

Matthew 10:12–13 “As you enter the house, greet it. <sup>13</sup> And if the house is worthy, let your peace come upon it, but if it is not worthy, let your peace return to you.

But, before Judgment day, God acts gently with people.

He will not force “peace.”

Peace requires both parties

Romans 12:18 <sup>18</sup> If possible, so far as it depends on you, live peaceably with all.

Jesus example: A difference in faith can fracture relationships

Mt 10:35-38 I have come to set a man against his father, and a daughter against her mother, and a daughter-in-law against her mother-in-law. <sup>36</sup> And a person's enemies will be those of his own household. <sup>37</sup>

Whoever loves father or mother more than me is not worthy of me, and whoever loves son or daughter more than me is not worthy of me.

A recent study shows that many “strong Christians” say that if there is a conflict between faith and family, that family comes first.

God is pro-family. But not at all costs.

First things first – God, must be first.

We confess that the First Commandment, “You shall have no other gods before me” means, “You should fear, love, and trust in God above all things.”

God gives us our families and relationships. He teaches us to honor our parents, to care for our children, to treat one another with love.

But He would not have us replace Him with others.

God would not have us make our families into idols. They cannot save us!

*If we put family or relationships in God's place, we ultimately lose both*

If loving another more than Jesus means we are not worthy? What does that say of us?

We aren't worthy, but Jesus is!

Revelation 5:12 "Worthy is the Lamb who was slain, to receive power and wealth and wisdom and might and honor and glory and blessing!"

This worthy Savior bids us to come, follow Him.