

WHY WOULD HE SAY THAT?!

Do not think that I have
come to bring peace to
the earth. I have not come
to bring peace, but a
sword.

(Matt 10:34)

DOES JESUS HATE PEACE?

I appeal to you, brothers, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that all of you agree and that there be no divisions among you, but that you be united in the same mind and the same judgment.

(1 Cor 1:10)

that they may all be one, just as You, Father, are in Me, and I in You

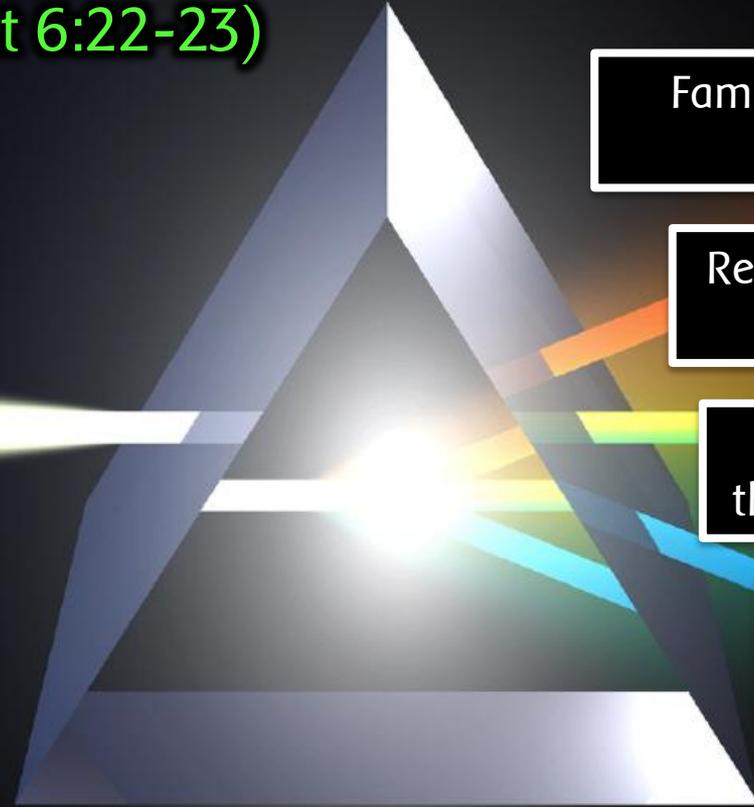
(Jhn 17:21)

Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace among those with whom He is pleased! (Lk 2:14)

Behold, how good and how pleasant it is for brethren to dwell together in unity! (Ps 133:1)

So why then does Jesus' teaching
bring a “sword” into our lives?

"The eye is the lamp of the body. So, if your eye is healthy, your whole body will be full of light, but if your eye is bad, your whole body will be full of darkness. If then the light in you is darkness, how great is the darkness!" (Matt 6:22-23)



Family traditions often define religious views

Religious attendance dictated by family

Only interested in religion that doesn't condemn family

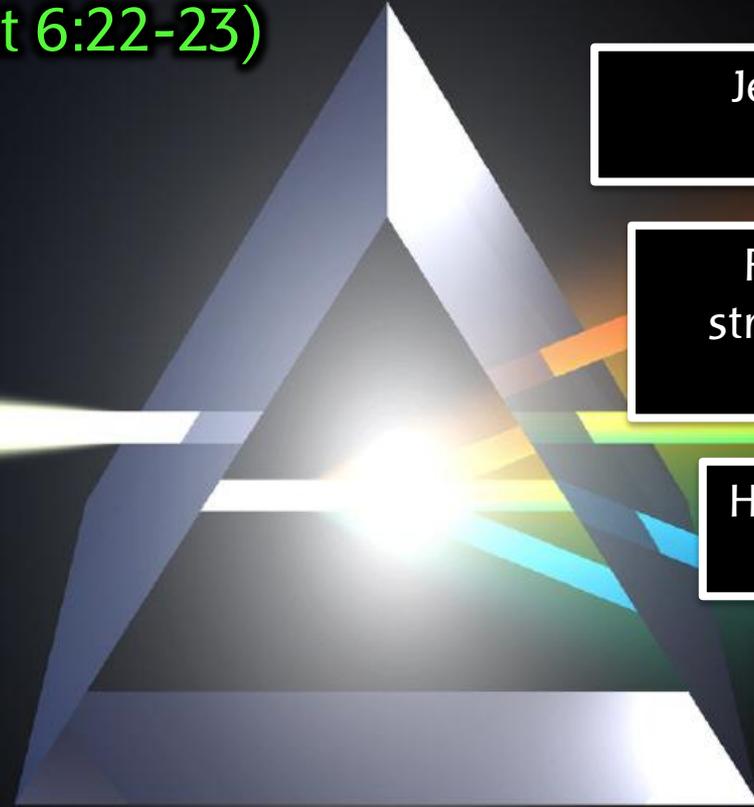
Family commitments come before spiritual ones

THE LENS OF FAMILY

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.

(Matt 10:37)

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Jesus guides our family commitments

Family relationships are strengthened/weakened by spiritual unity

Honor parents through godly values

Train up children by putting Jesus first

THE LENS OF CHRIST

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Do what is in your personal best interest

Think about others in regards to their relationship to you

Personal peace valued above all else

The path of least resistance is chosen

THE LENS OF SELF

And whoever does not take his cross and follow Me is not worthy of Me. Whoever finds his life will lose it, and whoever loses his life for My sake will find it. (Matt 10:38-39)

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Do what brings glory to Jesus and His cause

Think about others in regard to their relationship to their Creator

Jesus' cause and hope valued above all else

The path of greatest honor to Him is chosen

THE LENS OF CHRIST

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Goals are 50 years or less

Worries are centered around immediate struggles

Joys are based around short-term prosperity

Consequences are measured in earthly terms

You hypocrites! You know how to interpret the appearance of earth and sky, but why do you not know how to interpret the present time? (Lk 12:56)

THE SHORT-TERM LENS

"The eye is the lamp of the body. So, if your eye is healthy, your whole body will be full of light, but if your eye is bad, your whole body will be full of darkness. If then the light in you is darkness, how great is the darkness!" (Matt 6:22-23)

Goal setting begins with what happens after the funeral

Worries are centered around the Judgment Day

Joys are based around seeing spiritual successes in a physical world

Consequences are measured in eternal terms

You hypocrites! You know how to interpret the appearance of earth and sky, but why do you not know how to interpret the present time? (Lk 12:56)

THE ETERNAL LENS

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BECAUSE OUR
RELATIONSHIPS
WITH FAMILY AND
LOVED ONES CAN
BE USED
AGAINST US

At my first defense no one came to stand by me, but all deserted me. May it not be charged against them! But the Lord stood by me and strengthened me, so that through me the message might be fully proclaimed and all the Gentiles might hear it. So I was rescued from the lion's mouth. (2 Tim 4:16-17)

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BECAUSE OUR
DESIRE FOR
SELF-

PRESERVATION
CAN ACTUALLY
DESTROY US

You have lived on the earth in luxury and in self-indulgence. You have fattened your hearts in a day of slaughter. (Jas 5:5)

For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them. (Eph 2:10)

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BECAUSE
LIVING FOR
NOW AND
LIVING FOR
THEN IS LIKE
OIL AND
WATER

But Martha was distracted with much serving. And she went up to Him and said, "Lord, do you not care that my sister has left me to serve alone? Tell her then to help me." But the Lord answered her, "Martha, Martha, you are anxious and troubled about many things, but one thing is necessary. Mary has chosen the good portion, which will not be taken away from her." (Luke 10:40-42)

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PEOPLE

SELF

TIME