

# CHRIST came to bring a **SWORD**

“Do not suppose that I have come to bring peace to the earth. **I DID NOT COME TO BRING PEACE, BUT A SWORD.** For I have come to turn a man against his father, a daughter against her mother, a daughter-in-law against her mother-in-law—a man’s enemies will be the members of his own household” (Matthew 10:34-36).



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It is understood by Christians that the word of God is symbolic of a two-edged sword. When Christ said that he came not to bring peace but a sword, he was telling us that he came to bring the truth. **Bringing the truth will divide families for many reasons.** When the truth is spoken in an age where evil runs rampant, the people don't like it, so they will respond with hatred. "You will be hated by everyone because of me, but **the one who stands firm to the end will be saved**" (Matthew 10:22) and "If the world hates you, **keep in mind that it hated me first**" (John 15:18).

## **THE TRUTH DIVIDES FAMILIES**

**MEMBERS SIMPLY DISAGREE:** When members simply disagree, it is often a matter of interpretation that is at stake. The solution is for **all of them to go to God in prayer and ask for**

**the correct understanding.** It will take a sincere heart and genuine humility to accept correction.

“If any of you lacks wisdom, **you should ask God**, who gives generously to all without finding fault, and it will be given to you” (James 1:5).

“For this reason also, since the day we heard of it, we have not ceased to pray for you and to **ask that you may be filled with the knowledge of His will in all spiritual wisdom and understanding**” (Colossians 1:9).

“**I keep asking that the God** of our Lord Jesus Christ, the glorious Father, may give you the Spirit of wisdom and revelation, so that you may know him better” (Ephesians 1:17).

“**He gave me instruction and talked with me** and said, “**O Daniel, I have now come forth to give you insight with understanding**” (Daniel 9:22).

“Evil men do not understand justice, **but those who seek the LORD understand all things**” (Proverbs 28:5).

“**I will instruct you and teach you** in the way you should go; **I will counsel you with my loving eye on you**” (Psalm 32:8).

**MANY DO NOT VERIFY TRUTH:** Even with easy access to information in this 21<sup>st</sup> century, many Christians are lazy and simply accept what their pastors, preachers, teachers say. This is unfortunate because they lack enthusiasm and passion for God’s word, which is reflective of their relationship with God. “Their love is like the morning mist, like the early dew that disappears” (Hosea 6:4).

Remember the teachings of Christ and how he lived when he walked this earth. He kept the 10 commandments, he kept the holy days, **he corrected falsehood, misinformation, disinformation, misconceptions.** How can Christians help others to remain in the truth, if they do not test the teachings handed down to them?

“So, dear brothers and sisters, work hard to **prove that you really are among those God has called and chosen.** Do these things, and you will never fall away” (II Peter 1:10).

“Now the Berean Jews were of more noble character than those in Thessalonica, for **they received the message with great eagerness and examined the Scriptures every day to see if what Paul said was true**” (Acts 17:11).

Christ commended the church in Ephesus because **they tested** those who claimed to be apostles, but were not, and found them to be false (Revelation 2:2). The Apostles urged Christians to test and prove all things.

“Do not treat prophecies with contempt, **but test them all; hold on to what is good**” (I Thessalonians 5:21).

“Beloved, **do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits to see whether they are from God.** For many false prophets have gone out into the world” (I John 4:1).

“Watch out for **false prophets.** They **come to you in sheep's clothing,** but inwardly they are ferocious wolves” (Matthew 7:15).

“For **false Christs and false prophets will appear and perform great signs and wonders** that would deceive even the elect, if that were possible” (Matthew 24:24).

“Don't let anyone capture you with **empty philosophies and high-sounding nonsense** that come **from human thinking and from the spiritual powers of this world, rather than from Christ**” (Colossians 2:8).

**MANY DON'T WANT THE TRUTH:** Some people are angry and defiant against God, while others are noncommittal and keep their head in the sand to avoid conflict. Either way, they are refusing to love truth. This refusal will take their life, if they do not repent. Those who love truth will uphold it at any cost.

“**They perish** because **they refused to love the truth and so be saved.** For this reason, God sends them a powerful delusion so that they will believe the lie and so that all will be condemned who have not believed the truth but have delighted in wickedness” (II Thessalonians 2:10-11).

“No one calls for justice, **nor does any plead for truth.** They trust in empty words and speak lies; they conceive evil and bring forth iniquity... Justice is turned back, and righteousness stands afar off; **for truth is fallen** in the street, and equity cannot enter. So truth fails, and he who departs from evil makes himself a prey. Then the LORD saw it, and it displeased Him that there was no justice” (Isaiah 59:4, 14-15).

"So you shall say to them, 'This is a nation that does not obey the voice of the LORD their God nor receive correction. **Truth has perished** and has been cut off from their mouth” (Jeremiah 7:28).

**SOME SELF-RIGHTEOUSLY HOLD ONTO THEIR BELIEFS WITH A STUBBORN PRIDE:** Humility is the way into God's heart. No matter how right you see yourself, no matter how sure you believe you are, step back and check for pride. Earnestly seek God for the gift of teachability. Be quick to let go of misconceptions and falsehood. Be willing to let go of pet ideas and self-sacred beliefs.

“And he said: ‘Truly I tell you, unless you **change and become like little children**, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven. Therefore, whoever **humbles himself like this little child is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven**” (Matthew 18:3-4).

“Poverty and shame [shall be to] him that refuses instruction: but he that regards reproof shall be honored” (Proverbs 13:18).

“**Teach me your way, O LORD; I will walk in your truth: unite my heart to fear your name**” (Psalms 86:11).

“**Teach me to do your will; for you are my God: your Spirit is good; lead me into the land of uprightness**” (Psalms 143:10).

“Trust in the Lord with all your heart **and lean not on your own understanding**; in all your ways **submit to him, and he will make your paths straight**” (Proverbs 3:5-6).

**SOME FEAR STEPPING AWAY FROM THEIR CHURCH’S DOCTRINES:** Sad to say, some people fear disobeying their church doctrines and end up disobeying God. Everyone must feel free to test and prove their church teachings. If there is the slightest negative pressure by doing so, it is best to step away from them. **It is God we serve and not men.**

“Peter and the other apostles replied: “**We must obey God rather than human beings!**” (Acts 5:29)

“Then they called them in again and commanded them not to speak or teach at all in the name of Jesus. But Peter and John replied, ‘**Judge for yourselves whether it is right in God's sight to listen to you rather than God**’” (Acts 4:19).

“Their worship is a farce, for **they teach man-made ideas as commands from God**” (Mark 7:7).

“But **the midwives feared God**, and did not do as the king of Egypt had commanded them, but let the boys live” (Exodus 1:17).

**SOME ARE IN-LOVE WITH THEIR CHURCH:** Like an allegiance to their country, some pledge their devotion to their church with such passion that they refuse to assess and test the teachings. Five of the seven churches of Revelation have serious doctrinal problems. Loving God is to obey Him in everything. Obeying God requires a careful study of God’s word and a humble, teachable spirit. Fall in-love with Christ and do as he did, because he did what God does. Our ultimate teacher is God, our Creator not the church.

“Then Jesus answered and said to them, ‘Most assuredly, I say to you, **the Son can do nothing of Himself, but what He sees the Father do: for whatsoever things He does, these also does the Son likewise**’” (John 5:19).

“But the Comforter, who is the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, he shall teach you all things, and bring all things to your remembrance, whatsoever I have said unto you” (John 14:26).

**IN CONCLUSION:** Jesus Christ came with the sword of truth to challenge beliefs. He did not come to make peace by compromising, accepting half-truths, misconceptions, misinformation, or disinformation. He came to destroy all falsehood. This attack on falsehood will “turn a man against his father, a daughter against her mother, a daughter-in-law against her mother-in-law—a man’s enemies will be the members of his own household” (Matthew 10:34-36) because not all family members love the truth and hold fast to the pure word of God. Unfortunately, many are accepting of compromise or unwilling to search out the truth. Some believe that they already have a full understanding of God’s word and refuse to look at a different view or angle. These differing attitudes cause the division prophesied by Jesus Christ. Christians often attach emotions to their convictions and it is a painful tearing when their sacred beliefs are challenged. They become defensive and angry. Christ knew their reaction would be hostile and he warned all of his followers to expect it.

Regardless of how you choose to react to truth, ultimately, on the Day of Judgment you will stand before Christ as an individual to give an account of your actions and choices in life. There will be no one to blame but yourself. A verdict will be handed down and **all will know**. There will be those who are the greatest in the kingdom all the way down to those who will be the least. Your place will be eternal.

We have now entered into a unique period of time, where there is much anger and unrest. This unrest is due to the presence of truth starting to rise up and push against corruption. These latter days are here. Today, you can affect your place in eternity. Endure the painful removal of misconceptions, misinformation and disinformation and choose truth. Your healing will be quick, your election sure, and finally—you will be set free.

*Compiled by Janette Andrejowich*