

The Gospel Divides Families

Jim Newheiser

The Gospel Divides Families. Mt. 10:32-39,21-22 Luke 12:49-53 14:26-33

Introduction: the cost of discipleship.

- A. There are various versions of the false prosperity gospel.

 - B. Some of the most disturbing words Jesus ever spoke were about the impact being his follower would have on our families.
 - 1. Christ must come first – before your family. Luke 14:25-33 9:57-62
 - 2. Your faithfulness to Christ may create conflict between you and your unbelieving family members. Luke 12:49-53
 - 3. How does this strife relate to prophecies of the Messiah bringing peace on earth? Luke 2:14,34f 1:79 20:17f Isa. 9:5-6 Eph. 2:14 Heb. 2:14ff Gen. 3:15 Jo. 9:39 12:46ff 1 Jo. 3:8 5:19
 - 4. Wherever the Word of God goes forth there will be division. John 7:43 9:16 10:19

 - C. Not every family experiences these conflicts with the same intensity.
 - 1. God sovereignly works in families. Acts 16:31-34
 - 2. But there are also many cases of painful division. Gen. 4:1-12
- II. Don't be surprised when family members reject you because you follow Christ. Lu. 12:49-53
- A. Jesus was rejected by His own people. John 1:9-11 Mark 3:31-35

 - B. Jesus warned that His followers would be hated and mistreated as He was.
 - 1. This began with righteous Abel who was murdered by his evil brother. 1 John 3:12-13
 - 2. The world hates us because of our loyalty to Christ. John 3:19 15:18 Mt. 10:22
 - 3. Our own family members who are of the world will hate us. Mt. 10:21,40 Micah 7:6
Luke 12:59-53 Ps. 27:10,2 1 John 3:1 John 15:18-25

 - C. God Himself has wayward children and an unfaithful bride. Isa. 1:2 Jer. 3:6

The Gospel Divides Families

Jim Newheiser

III. Don't betray Christ for the sake of your family – Jesus comes first. 1 Sam. 2:29 Mt.
10:32-39 Luke 14:26-33

A. You can't always prevent conflict. Rom. 12:18

B. There may be cases in which you will be forced to choose between Christ and your relatives. Deut. 33:9 Pr. 29:25

1. Your family may pressure you to choose them above Christ. Mt. 10:32-37
2. Some have wrongly honored their family members above God. 1 Sam. 2:12-17,22,29 2 Sam. 13:11-21 19:4-7 1 Kings 1:5-6
3. The results in each case was disastrous. 1 Sam. 2:30-36 3:11-14 4:16-22 2 Sam. 13:28 18:14-15 1 Ki. 2:19-25

C. Don't ever choose your family above Christ. Mt. 10:37-39 Acts 5:29

1. Unbelieving family members can be extremely moralistic, judgmental and intolerant. John 16:1-4
2. They will work hard to convert you.
3. Your faithfulness to Christ may produce their ire. Mt. 10:24-28 Luke 12:51-53 14:26ff
4. You must not love a family member more than you love Christ. Mt. 10:37-39 Luke 14:26-33

IV. Even if your family treats you like an enemy, keep loving them. Luke 6:27-36 Mt. 5:43-44
Ro. 12:20 2:4

A. Your children. Luke 15:11ff Ps. 103:13-14

B. Your spouse. 1 Pet. 3:1-2 1 Cor. 7:12-14

C. You don't have to shun unbelieving immoral family members. 1 Co. 5:10

D. Their problem is not their immorality, but their lostness. 1 Co. 6:9-11

E. Maintain an attitude of grace/forbearance. Luke 22:34

The Gospel Divides Families

Jim Newheiser

V. Jesus incorporates you into His heavenly family.

- A. While we cannot ultimately rely upon our family members, we can trust the Lord to take care of us. Ps. 27:10-14,1-9 -21 Jer. 17:5-8
- B. Christ has redeemed you from the sins of your parents. 1 Pet. 1:18
- C. He offers you both peace now and peace forever. Rom. 5:1 John 14:27 Isa. 11:9 43:2 Ps. 66:12
- D. You will gain more than you have lost. Luke 18:28-30 8:19 Mt. 19:29 Mark 3:31-35
- E. Jesus welcomes you into His family. Mt. 11:28ff Eph. 1:5 Rom. 8:14-17 Gal. 4:4-5