

# Our Relationship With Jesus Christ Will Bring Peace Of Mind But Also A Sword In The Form Of A Cross

**Galatians 2:20** [NIV] *“I have been crucified with Christ...”*

We should always remember that the Church is a divine family.

**Romans 8:14** [NIV] *“...because those who are led by the Spirit of God are sons of God.”*

**We are created children of God.**

**Our loyalty to our spiritual family sometimes cuts sharply across the ties that bind us to our earthly families.**

The cross is in the form of a sword and our allegiance to the One who sacrificed His life on it for us, can sometimes separate us from friends and divide households.

**The idea that Christ always brings peace and patches up differences is not found in His own teaching.**

When a person casts their lot in with Jesus, this often means they will be opposed by their blood relatives and they will find their true family ties within the community of the Church.

The most desirable situation is to be reared in a Christian home, where the conversion of a young person will bring no rift to the family. **More often the presence of a true Christian in a family will bring serious divergence of interest if it does not divide, such a condition puts real strain upon the solidarity of the family.**

The weakness of present-day society is to make any concessions to wise judgement and moral living in order to *“get along with people”*.

**There is a tendency to allow our moral judgement to sink to that of the lowest in society in order to avoid conflict.**

**2 Corinthians 6:14-18** [NIV] *“Do not be yoked together with unbelievers. For what do righteousness and wickedness have in common? Or what fellowship can light have with darkness? What harmony is there between Christ and Belial? **What does a believer have in common with an unbeliever?** What agreement is there between the temple of God and idols? For we are the temple of the living God. As God has said: “I will live with them and walk among them, and I will be their God, and they will be my people.” “Therefore come out from them and be separate, says the Lord. Touch no unclean thing, and I will receive you.” “I will be a Father to you, and you will be my sons and daughters, says the Lord Almighty.”*

Jesus Christ would not alter one word of His message to stay in favour with anyone, be they Jew or Pagan or even for a member of His own earthly family.

**John 7:5** [NIV] *“For even his own brothers did not believe in him.”*

**Jesus did not compromise when His message to gain favour with His brothers and sisters.**

No-one truly understands the meaning of the cross who puts blood ties alongside the ties of the Spirit.

**John 3:6** [NIV] *“Flesh gives birth to flesh, but the Spirit gives birth to spirit.”*

**Only our faithful commitment to the Holy Spirit will guarantee our entry into the Kingdom of God. Our only hope is our total trust in Jesus Christ and the “Spirit of Christ”, who is the Holy Spirit.**

**Luke 20:34-35** [NIV] *“Jesus replied, “The people of this age marry and are given in marriage. But those who are considered worthy of taking part in that age and in the resurrection from the dead will neither marry nor be given in marriage...”*

**All fleshly relationships will be dissolved in the resurrection, even the intimate relationship between husband and wife.**

For this reason Jesus said that for some people it would be necessary to break family ties now if they decided to follow and trust in Him.

**Luke 14:26-27** [NIV] *“If anyone comes to me and does not hate his father and mother, his wife and children, his brothers and sisters, yes, even his own life, he cannot be my disciple. And anyone who does not carry his cross and follow me cannot be my disciple.”*

**What Christ is saying is that faith in Him immediately introduces another and a higher loyalty in life. Jesus our Saviour demands first place in our lives.**

For the true disciple of Christ it is always Christ before family, Christ before country, even Christ before our own lives.

**Romans 12:1** [NIV] *“Therefore, I urge you, brothers, in view of God’s mercy, to offer your bodies as living sacrifices, holy and pleasing to God-- this is your spiritual act of worship.”*

**The flesh and the satisfying of its desire must always be sacrificed to the Spirit.**

**Matthew 6:33** [NIV] *“But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well.”*

**The heavenly must always be placed ahead of the earthly whatever the personal cost may be.**

**Galatians 2:20** [NIV] *“I have been crucified with Christ and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me. The life I live in the body, I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me.”*

**When we take up the cross, we become expendable, along with all previous loyalties, and Christ becomes all in all.**

**Luke 12:51-53** [NIV] *“Do you think I came to bring peace on earth? No, I tell you, but division. From now on there will be five in one family divided against each other, three against two and two against three. They will be divided, father against son and son against father, mother against daughter and daughter against mother, mother-in-law against daughter-in-law and daughter-in-law against mother-in-law.”*

**In these days of “easy” Christianity, “nothing to do but accept Jesus Christ in your heart” type of so-called conversion, we need to see this truth and seek the faith, conviction and strength to accept it.**

**Being a disciple of Jesus Christ is not for the timid or faint-hearted.**

**Matthew 11:12** [Amplified Bible] *“And from the days of John the Baptist until the present time the Kingdom of Heaven has endured violent assault, and violent men seize it by force [as a precious prize] a share in the Heavenly Kingdom is sought for with most ardent zeal and intense exertion.”*

**Matthew 16:24-27** [NIV] *“Then Jesus said to his disciples, **“If anyone would come after me, he must deny himself and take up his cross and follow me. For whoever wants to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for me will find it.** What good will it be for a man if he gains the whole world, yet forfeits his soul? Or what can a man give in exchange for his soul? For the Son of Man is going to come in his Father’s glory with his angels, and then he will reward each person according to what he has done.”*

**Mark 8:34-38** [NIV] *“Then he called the crowd to him along with his disciples and said: **“If anyone would come after me, he must deny himself and take up his cross and follow me. For whoever wants to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for me and for the gospel will save it. What good is it for a man to gain the whole world, yet forfeit his soul? Or what can a man give in exchange for his soul? If anyone is ashamed of me and my words in this adulterous and sinful generation, the Son of Man will be ashamed of him when he comes in his Father’s glory with the holy angels.”***

**Pray that time will not run out for us before we realise what being a disciple of Jesus Christ and taking up our cross really means to us personally.**