

It ain't those parts of the Bible that I can't understand that bother me, it is the parts that I do understand.

- Mark Twain

His yoke is easy and his burden is light, but his sayings are often hard because they run counter to well entrenched presuppositions and traditional assumptions about life.

- F.F. Bruce

I came that they may have life and have it abundantly.

John 10:10 (ESV)

LIFE

IS

GREAT!

If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow me.

Mark 8:34 (ESV)

CROSSES

ARE

HARD!

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.

PEACE

IS

GREAT!

John 14:27 (ESV)





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

Matthew 10:34 (ESV)

SWORDS

ARE

HARD!

For I have come to set a man against his father, and a daughter against her mother, and a daughter-in-law against her mother-inlaw. And a person's enemies will be those of his own household. Matthew 10:35-36 (ESV)

SWORDS

ARE

HARD!

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.

ARE

HARD!

SWORDS

Matthew 10:37 (ESV)

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. Matthew 10:38-39 (ESV)

SWORDS

ARE

HARD!

It was not Jesus' Purpose to divide, but Jesus cannot, will not coexist with competing value systems or divided loyalties.

"I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me."

And there is salvation in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved.

I therefore, a Ephesians 4:1-3 (ESV) prisoner for the

Lord, urge you to walk in a manner worthy of the calling to which you have been called, with all humility and gentleness, with patience, bearing with one another in love, eager to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.

Ephesians 4:4-6 (ESV)

There is one body and one Spirit—just as you were called to the one hope that belongs to your call— one Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all.

Jude 3 (ESV)

Beloved, although I was very eager to write to you about our common salvation, I found it necessary to write appealing to you to contend for the faith that was once for all delivered to the saints.

The Goal is to Earnestly Contend For the Faith without becoming contentious and combative.

Galatians 6:1 (ESV)

Brothers, if anyone is caught in any transgression, you who are spiritual should restore him in a spirit of gentleness.

Romans 12:18 (ESV)

If possible, so far as it depends on you, live peaceably with all.

Our DEFAULT attitude is humility, kindness, gentleness, & peace.

BUT – we must also hold a noncompromising commitment to Jesus that requires us to contend for The Faith – the truth about Jesus.

For whoever is ashamed of me and of my words in this adulterous and sinful generation, of him will the Son of Man also be ashamed when he comes in the glory of his Father with the holy angels.

THIS

IS

HARD!

Mark 8:35 (ESV)

John 6:67-69 (ESV) So Jesus said to the twelve, "Do you want to go away as well?" Simon Peter answered him, "Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life, and we have believed, and have come to know, that you are the Holy One of God."