

Paradoxes to Live by

A peace that creates division

Some paradoxes in Scripture are not expressed in one sentence but are created by comparing one verse with another, which at first may sound very contradictory.

What exactly was Jesus' mission, based upon Isa. 9:6?
How does this verse fit well with the statements made in Matt. 10:34-36 and Lk. 12:51-53?

See more on Jesus' mission in Lk. 2:14, 8:48, 10:5, 19:38, Jn. 14:27, 16:33, Acts 10:36, Eph. 2:14,15-17, 6:15.

How does Lk 12:51-53 even further seem at odds with Isa. 9:6 and the above passages about Jesus' mission?

What did Jesus face with His own family early on in His Galilean ministry, Mk. 3:21ff.? Have you ever had any issues with friends or family because of your faith?

How should we understand Jesus' command to "hate" one's family members? Consider Matt. 6:3, 5:29,30, Mk. 9:37, and especially Rom. 9:13.

Actually who are the real "haters," Mk. 13:12, Lk. 21:17?

Note our passage in Matt. 10 and Lk. 12 both end with the reference to one carrying his/her cross. How might family division connect with cross-carrying?

Here is something to consider—what are the paradoxes that we have been studying suggest about the nature of the Christian life?