

# “A MAN FOES IN HIS OWN HOUSEHOLD”

By Keith Greer

"For I have come to set a man against his father, a daughter against her mother, and a daughter-in-law against her mother-in-law. And a man's foes will be those of his own household."  
{Matthew 10:35,36}

These words of our Lord, were spoken to the twelve apostles, not long after being chosen by Him. What does Jesus have reference to in these passages? Did Christ come to split and destroy family relationships?

**What did God call upon Abraham to do?** "Now the LORD had said to Abram: "Get out of your country, From your family And from your father's house, To a land that I will show you. I will make you a great nation; I will bless you And make your name great; And you shall be a blessing."  
{Genesis 12:1,2} Why? God did not give Abraham the reason and he did not ask for one. We do know that he left, so Abraham did not think the Lord was asking too much. Further reading will clearly show the fulfillment of all the promises God made to Abraham.

**Does God expect His children to isolate and cut themselves off from their families?** Many cults in our society teach this very fact. Not many years ago, a group among us was advocating the same doctrine. Yet, I believe these and others have missed the truth revealed in Jesus' words in Matthew ten. What is our Lord's point?

"He who loves father and mother more than Me is not worthy of Me. And he who loves son and daughter more than Me is not worthy of Me." {Matthew 10:37} Luke writes, "If anyone comes to Me and does not hate his father and mother, wife and children, brothers and sisters, yes, and his own life also, he cannot be My disciple." {Luke 14:26} Can this be true? Let me explain how.

The word "hate" In Luke's account means "to love less." For you see, one cannot be a disciple of Christ and love anyone or anything more than God. "But seek you first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you." {Matthew 6:33} God does not take "second place" to anyone, not even to our dearest loved ones!

Sometimes, this causes friction in a home, especially when one may be an unbeliever. Husband or wife may become jealous of the time spent away from them. One might even feel a threat of losing their mate. No need to worry. Only if one is forced to choose between God or their mate, will this cause a problem. If such a choice had to be made, God would have to be the first choice!

Why should one married to a Christian never feel “slighted” about their affections being “split” with their mate’s relationship to the Lord? Along with being a disciple of Christ, God’s word gives instructions of how each one should conduct their personal lives in our relationships. Husbands are to love their wives as Christ loved the church, Ephesians 5:25. Wives are told to love and submit to their husbands, Ephesians 5:22-24. Children are instructed to love and obey their parents, Ephesians 6:1-4. Christians should be the best husbands, wives, parents and friend that a person could have in the world. Following God’s instructions in our physical relationships will only make them better. Never forget we

are talking here about **PRIORITY**. God comes first because He is the one that gave us life. Everything one has to enjoy in this life is a direction expression of His love for us – this is even true concerning our physical relationships – some of our dearest ties on the earth.

God said it might come down to a situation when ones foes, "may be those of his household." Hopefully, we never will face such a choice, yet, if we must, our answer must always be the same. God will be first! May God help each of us to never forget He is the source and provider of ALL blessings in our lives – even the physical ones! \*\*\*