

What does Jesus mean that he did not come to bring peace but a sword?

1. We have to start with a right picture of Jesus. Jesus simply doesn’t fit into twenty-first century ideals.
2. Jesus does bring peace, but he brings it on his terms, not ours.
3. Conflict comes about when we follow Jesus above of all else and there are those who want us to go their way.

Loving Jesus above All Other Things

1. Following Jesus means that we want his will above our own and above any one else’s will.
2. Following Jesus means a putting some really good things and some really good people lower than Jesus in your life.
3. Jesus submitted to the will of the Father above all else and it meant death on a cross for him. We need to be prepared that submitting to the will of Christ above all else could mean a cross for us too.

Ways That We Can Deny Jesus

1. With our immorality
2. With our morality

“If anyone thinks that Christians regard unchastity as the supreme vice, he is quite wrong. The sins of the flesh are bad, but they are the least bad of all sins. All the worst pleasures are purely spiritual: the pleasure of putting other people in the wrong, of bossing and patronising and spoiling sport, and backbiting; the pleasures of power, of hatred....That is why a cold, self-righteous prig who goes to church may be far nearer to hell than a prostitute. But, of course, it is better to be neither (Mere Christianity” [New York: MacMillian, 1967], 94-95).

When We Fail

There is a world of difference between those who agree with the authority of Christ and fail to submit to it at all times and those who refuse to submit Christ’s authority of Christ over things in their lives. There is forgiveness for the first but not for the second.