

Luke 12:49-51

⁴⁹ "I came to send fire on the earth, and how I wish it were already kindled! ⁵⁰ But I have a baptism to be baptized with, and how distressed I am till it is accomplished! ⁵¹ Do you suppose that I came to give peace on earth? I tell you, not at all, but rather division.

These words spoken by Jesus Christ are some of the hardest to understand, let alone explain; because according to other teachings, we might see this as a misprint. Many understand that one of the primary purposes in Jesus coming to walk amongst mankind was to reinstate restoration and reconciliation for man back to God. Yet, never in all of the time that Jesus was here, did He ever compromise His Father or His Word in fulfilling His mission. So why does the church work so feverishly to gain peace at any cost; when Jesus was very clear that peace was not part of the plan for this time? I am convinced that the life of a believer was never intended to be one of peace and leisure. I'm not talking about peace in our homes, our hearts, or the church; but rather in the world. Jesus, the only begotten Son of God, offended the religious spirits of everyone around Him; mainly, because His message is in such direct opposition to our flesh.

The only way any of us can have real peace in our lives, is to be sold out to Jesus Christ. Anytime we compromise that relationship in anyway, peace leaves and anarchy reigns. Look at our government today, not only are the polls for our President at all time lows, but, so are those for the House and the Senate. In fact, Republicans are disgusted with what is taking place in their party, as much as Democrats are in theirs. I believe that this nation is primed for a totally new leader or government. Everyone seems disgusted with where this nation is headed, and I can see people desiring change, any change! I wonder what the future generations will think of this nation, as well as the church, as they read all that is taking place around us today; and how we seem to be so blind of our current circumstances and dangers. Will history show that we made the right decisions? Instead of lowering God's standards to meet the sins and choices of the people around us; we need to speak the truth in love, that these men and women might not spend eternity in hell. For those who desire peace at any cost, I fear that eternity for them might bare more heat than they ever would have dreamed. The bottom line is that truth offends!! What God has called each of us to do, is to speak that truth in love. If you are planning to marry truth and peace, it will never work. You can speak the truth as kindly, lovingly, and softly as you can, yet it will still offend. Hopefully, it will bring conviction, which will bring repentance and change; but many times it brings division and offenses. It would seem that many have forgotten how much that the Lord hates sin!! Sin is what separates man from God, and it is the fruit by which the masses will spend eternity in hell. If we are cognizant of this fact, then why aren't we speaking the truth to those around us? I know of many people who love their children, spouses, and friends, they know that person is playing Russian roulette with their eternity; but rather than taking the chance to offend that loved one, they are hoping for a miracle by which they'll be saved. The truth is, if we fail to speak what God's Word says, then we could be the one robbing them of the miracle of salvation. Church, I exhort you to let your light shine, and to be salt to this earth.