

Hard Teaching of Jesus

LOVE ME MOST

RECAP

- ✘ The Bible

 - + Accurate, reliable, the Word of God

- ✘ Does Jesus Say He is God?

 - + Multiple times in different ways

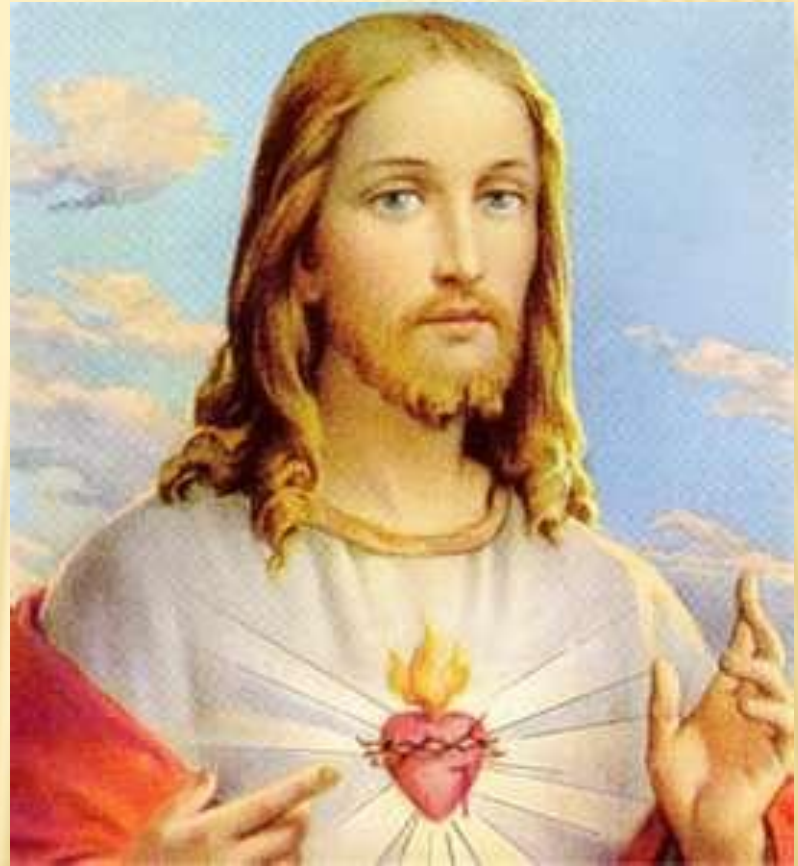
- ✘ Jesus, The Only Way

 - + Christianity is unique

 - + God graciously provided ONE way for us

HARD TEACHING OF JESUS

- ✘ 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



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HARD TEACHING OF JESUS

✘ 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-in-law. And a person's enemies will be those of his own household.

+ Matthew 10:35-36

HARD TEACHING OF JESUS

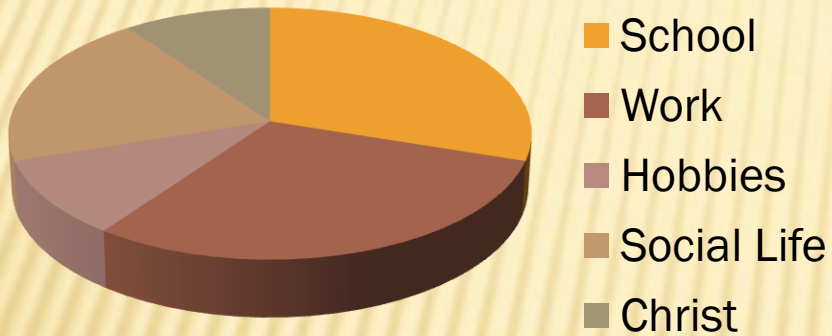
- ✘ And proclaim as you go, saying, 'The kingdom of heaven is at hand.'
 - + Matthew 10:7
- ✘ Division
 - + Kingdom of God OR Kingdom of Satan

LOVE ME MORE?

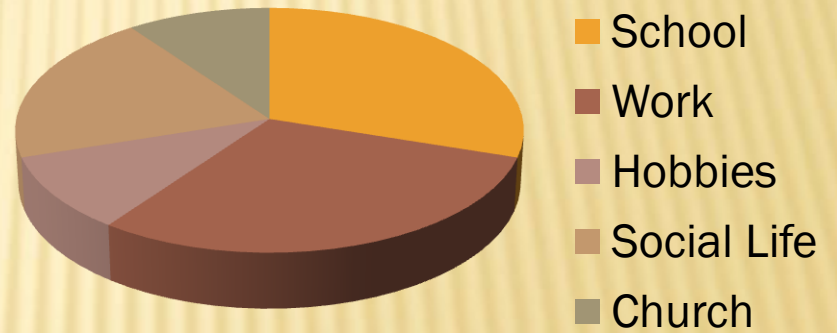
- ✘ Whoever loves father or mother more than me is not worthy of me, and whoever loves son or daughter more than me is not worthy of me.
 - + Matthew 10:37

LOVE ME MORE?

My Life



Life is Christ



LOVE ME ONLY?

- ✘ Now great crowds accompanied him, and he turned and said to them, “If anyone comes to me and does not hate his own father and mother and wife and children and brothers and sisters, yes, and even his own life, he cannot be my disciple. Whoever does not bear his own cross and come after me cannot be my disciple.

+ Luke 14:25-27

LOVE ME ONLY?

- ✘ A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another: just as I have loved you, you also are to love one another. By this all people will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another.
 - + John 13:34-35
- ✘ But I say to you, Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you.
 - + Matthew 5:44

THINGS

× Father

- + Authority, rules we live by, what governs our actions

× Mother

- + Comfort, care, place of refuge, place of help, place that makes us feel better

THINGS

× Children

- + What comes after us, our reputation, our accomplishments, what we have done, what we like to show off to others

× Brothers and Sisters

- + Peers, things in your life that are fun, hip, cool, social hangouts, activities

THINGS

- ✘ Significant Other

- + What we hold close to our heart, what is most dear to us

- ✘ Own Life

- + Our very own identity, who we are, what defines us, ego, ME

WHO POSSESSES WHOM?

- ✘ Things can never really be possessed by the man who cannot do without them...if you are not content, it is because God is not with you as you need him...for you need Him as your body never needed food or air, need Him as your soul never hungered after joy, or peace, or pleasure.

+ George MacDonald

IMPOSSIBLE?

✘ I have **learned** in whatever situation I am to be content. I know how to be brought low, and I know how to abound. In any and every circumstance, I have learned the secret of facing plenty and hunger, abundance and need. I can do all things through him who strengthens me.

+ Philippians 4:11-13

CANNOT BE HIS DISCIPLE

- ✘ ...he cannot be my disciple.
 - + Luke 14:26
- ✘ Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.
 - + Matthew 28:19

DISCIPLE OF CHRIST

- ✘ Salvation apart from obedience is unknown in the sacred scriptures. This “heresy” has created the impression that it is quite reasonable to be a “vampire Christian.” One in effect says to Jesus, “I’d like a little of your blood, please. But I don’t care to be your student or have your character. In fact, won’t you just excuse me while I get on with my life, and I’ll see you in heaven.

+ Dallas Willard

THE OFFER

- ✘ If we consider the unblushing promises of reward and the staggering nature of the rewards promised in the Gospels, it would seem that Our Lord finds our desires not too strong, but too weak. *We are half-hearted creatures, fooling about with drink and sex and ambition when infinite joy is offered to us, like an ignorant child who wants to go on making mud pies in a slum because he cannot imagine what is meant by the offer of a holiday at the sea. We are far too easily pleased.*

+ C.S. Lewis

FINDING LIFE

✘ 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