

# Luke 12:53

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

The father shall be divided against the son, and the son against the father; the mother against the daughter, and the daughter against the mother; the mother in law against her daughter in law, and the daughter in law against her mother in law.

## Analysis

**The father shall be divided against the son, and the son against the father; the mother against the daughter, and the daughter against the mother; the mother in law against her daughter in law, and the daughter in law against her mother in law** (διαμερισθήσονται πατὴρ ἐπὶ νἱῷ καὶ νἱὸς ἐπὶ πατρί, μῆτηρ ἐπὶ θυγατέρᾳ καὶ θυγάτηρ ἐπὶ τὴν μητέρα, πενθερὰ ἐπὶ τὴν νύμφην αὐτῆς καὶ νύμφη ἐπὶ τὴν πενθεράν)—Jesus enumerates specific family divisions: parent/child, mother/daughter, in-laws. The repetition emphasizes comprehensiveness—no relationship immune from gospel division. The preposition epi (against) indicates active opposition, not mere disagreement.

This catalog of fractured relationships demonstrates the gospel's radical demand for ultimate allegiance. Christ requires priority over the most sacred human bonds. This isn't hatred of family but recognition that following Jesus may cost family approval, inheritance, even relationship. Discipleship demands willingness to lose everything for Christ.

## Historical Context

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The mother-in-law/daughter-in-law relationship was particularly significant in patriarchal culture where brides joined husband's household under mother-in-law's authority. Division here indicated complete household fracture. Jesus's enumeration covers multiple generations and marriage relationships—comprehensive family breakdown over allegiance to him.

## Related Passages

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**Revelation 20:12** — Judgment according to deeds

**Matthew 25:31** — Final judgment

## Study Questions

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1. What family relationships have been tested or broken by your Christian faith?
2. How do you maintain gospel witness to family members who oppose your faith without compromising truth or relationship?
3. Does your Christianity cost you anything in family dynamics, or have you accommodated faith to avoid conflict?

## Interlinear Text

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διαμερισθήσεται πατρί ἐπὶ νιὸς καὶ νιὸς ἐπὶ<sup>1</sup>  
shall be divided The father against the son and the son against  
G1266 G3962 G1909 G5207 G2532 G5207 G1909

πατρί μητρί· ἐπὶ θυγάτηρ καὶ θυγάτηρ ἐπὶ<sup>1</sup>  
The father the mother against the daughter and the daughter against  
G3962 G3384 G1909 G2364 G2532 G2364 G1909

μητρί· πενθεράν ἐπὶ τὴν νύμφη αὐτῆς καὶ<sup>1</sup>  
the mother mother in law against G3588 daughter in law G846 and G2532  
G3384 G3994 G1909 G3565 G3565 G846 G2532

νύμφη ἐπὶ τὴν πενθεράν αὐτῆς,  
daughter in law against G3588 mother in law G846  
G3565 G1909 G3994 G846

## Additional Cross-References

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**Micah 7:6** (Word): For the son dishonoureth the father, the daughter riseth up against her mother, the daughter in law against her mother in law; a man's enemies are the men of his own house.

**Matthew 24:10** (Parallel theme): And then shall many be offended, and shall betray one another, and shall hate one another.