

Who is My Family?

According to Epictetus and Jesus



"It is a universal law—have no illusions—that every creature alive is attached to nothing so much as to its own self-interest. Whatever threatens to stand in the way of that—be it brother, father, child or sweetheart—he will hate, curse and prosecute, because he is naturally disposed to favor primarily his own interest. **This** is his father, his brother, his relations, his country and his god."

~**Epictetus**, Discourses, Book II, 22: 15-16

"Then his mother and his brothers came; and standing outside, they sent to him and called him. A crowd was sitting around him; and they said to him, 'Your mother and your brothers and sisters are outside, asking for you.' And he replied, 'Who are my mother and my brothers?' And looking at those who sat around him, he said, 'Here are my mother and my brothers! Whoever does the will of God is my brother and sister and mother.' "

~**Jesus of Nazareth**, Gospel of Mark, 3:31-35

(Compare Luke 14:26: "If any one comes to me and does not hate his own [family], yes, and even his own life, he cannot be my disciple.")