

CONTENDING FOR THE FAITH

The Jude Series #7

April 21st, 2024

TEXT: Jude 3-21

CONSIDER THIS: The world is energized by lies and deceit. The world has been blinded by Satan, the master and source of all deceit. As Christians, we understand this and expect nothing else from the world. But what is even more dangerous is the fact that lies and deceit can find a home **in the church**. This is the fruit of false teaching and it is why Jude wrote his letter. It is a call for Grace Community to earnestly contend for the faith delivered once for all time.

REVIEW: There are four primary areas false teachers attack and distort biblical truth

1. **The gospel:** Usually something is added. Faith alone, in Christ alone, through grace alone is denied. The focus becomes what man must do rather than what Christ has done (do vs. done).
2. **The person and work of Jesus Christ:** His deity or the sufficiency of his atoning work on the cross are common areas of attack by false teachers.
3. **The Bible:** God's Word is twisted, its absolute authority and changeless truths are undermined, and **people go outside of scripture "to hear" from God.**



A distorted gospel (1), an unbiblical view of Christ (2) and a lack of reverence for the authority and sufficiency of scripture (3). Always leads to a compromised lifestyle (4).



4. **The Christian life:** All sorts of practices and behaviors that are unbiblical take the place of genuine spirituality and the sincere pursuit of imitating Christ.

How it shows up in the church today

- * I will sin now but its okay because I will ask for forgiveness later (this is not true repentance)
- * In my situation this is not sinful
- * The Bible doesn't really say this is wrong
- * "God has given me a 'peace' about my decision"
- * Love is the most important thing
- *God wants us to be happy

There is a kernel of truth in these beliefs but they are twisted so they can be enlisted to disobey God while claiming to be living the Christian life.

I. SO WHAT IS THE GENUINE CHRISTIAN LIFE?

- A) This is not meant to be a mystery. You know you are living for Christ when your life begins to bear the fruit of the Holy Spirit (Galatians 5:22-23). This fruit should govern our relationships. If it doesn't then there is failure to live the genuine Christian life.
- B) The true Christian pursues holiness (I Peter 1:13-16).

Remember, it is not the **perfection** of your life,
it is the **direction** of your life.

- C) Jude provides a word of instruction in Jude 20-23.

II. THE DANGEROUS DETOURS OF THE FALSE TEACHERS

- A) They were interested in angels and demons and disrespected that realm (Jude 8-10). This is happening today with “deliverance ministries”.
- B) They fell into “Balaam’s error” (Jude 11), which referred to the pagan prophet Balaam who used Midianite women to lead the men of Israel into idolatry and immorality (Numbers 31:15-16 and Numbers 25:1-3). Balaam involved the name LORD, but did not truthfully represent Him. Jude’s purpose in using Balaam as an illustration was to point out in Jude’s day how false teachers in the church were encouraging a sexual code that differed from God’s Word and would never admit that they were rejecting Christianity. Indeed, they were able to operate inside the church because they were deceivers and were themselves deceived.
- C) Jude called the false teachers “waterless clouds” (Jude 11-12). They talked about new life yet ultimately they contributed nothing to the new life proclaimed by true teachers of the gospel.

The church must always guard what is taught.

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