

03/09/25

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JUDE

Contend for the Faith – Part 2

Jude

Why? - Jude 3 Beloved, while I was very diligent to write to you concerning our common salvation, I found it necessary to write to you exhorting you to contend earnestly for the faith which was once for all delivered to the saints.

Who and What? 4 For certain men have crept in unnoticed, who long ago were marked out for this condemnation, ungodly men, who turn the grace of our God into lewdness and deny the only Lord God and our Lord Jesus Christ.

I. Ungodly Men

a. Autopsy of an apostate

- i. These are not simply individuals who are confused or mistaken, who are learning and growing and have a wrong idea or understanding of scripture
 1. Just as Jesus warned, these are wolves in sheep clothing
 2. Turn God's grace into a license to sin, they deny the person and work of Christ, they grumble, complain, stir up division and sow discouragement, full of themselves, flatter people only to take from them, they mock the Word of God and the promises of God, they are their own god, lead by their flesh and not by the Spirit
 3. As Jude points out – they do not have the Spirit
 4. They are false shepherds – only shepherding themselves – their god is their own belly
 - a. Clouds without rain, trees without fruit, wandering stars leading people astray
- ii. They are the antithesis of Christ – literal anti-christs
 1. Not just opposing Christ word but their very lives are contrary to Christ
 2. Jesus came in humility and brought life – they come with great swelling words and bring death
 3. ***1 John 2:18 Little children, it is the last hour; and as you have heard that the Antichrist is coming, even now many antichrists have come, by which we know that it is the last hour.***

b. We shouldn't be surprised when the world acts worldly – what do we expect?

- i. We are surrounded by a society that has rejected Christ as King – that is the condition we are all born into
 1. That is the world we have been called out of, set apart from – we shouldn't be surprised at what we see out there
- ii. What is surprising is that these individuals who live in a way that is completely contrary to Christ have made their way into the church without opposition
 1. That is what Jude noticed – “the wolves are comfortable among you”

2. *they feast with you without fear*
- iii. How do they slip in? ***2 Cor 11:13 For such are false apostles, deceitful workers, transforming themselves into apostles of Christ. 14 And no wonder! For Satan himself transforms himself into an angel of light. 15 Therefore it is no great thing if his ministers also transform themselves into ministers of righteousness, whose end will be according to their works.***

II. What Can We Do?

- a. Rest assured – they will answer for what they have done - God doesn't turn a blind eye to their actions
- i. I want to remind you – the Lord having saved the people out of the land of Egypt, afterward destroyed those who did not believe
1. As Green writes in his commentary - *They had experienced the redeeming hand of God from Egypt, the heathen land of bondage and death. They had known the release, the new life involved in becoming the people of God. But in their hearts they returned to Egypt.*
- a. That is the nature of apostasy – tasted, seen God's work of salvation and redemption firsthand, and yet still rejected Him, still longed for the world
- ii. And even the angels who were not happy with their position in heaven, even though they were in the very presence of God, he has kept in eternal chains in deep darkness for the judgment on the great day.
1. ***2 Peter 2:4 For if God did not spare the angels who sinned, but cast them down to hell and delivered them into chains of darkness, to be reserved for judgment;***
- iii. They will stand before God, the righteous judge, and answer for what they have done to pervert the purity and power of the gospel of Jesus Christ
- b. Woe to them
- i. ***Jud 11 Woe to them! For they have gone in the way of Cain (jealousy), have run greedily in the error of Balaam for profit (cursed the people of God for money – greed), and perished in the rebellion of Korah. (arrogance, insubordination)***
- ii. ***Jud 14 Now Enoch, the seventh from Adam, prophesied about these men also, saying, "Behold, the Lord comes with ten thousands of His saints, 15 to execute judgment on all, to convict all who are ungodly among them of all their ungodly deeds which they have committed in an ungodly way, and of all the harsh things which ungodly sinners have spoken against Him."***
- c. We don't rejoice in their misfortune
- i. But we are not without hope when we see God's Word twisted for personal gain
- ii. He will make all things new – redemption is coming
- iii. ***2 Pet 3:9 The Lord does not delay his promise, as some understand delay, but is patient with you, not wanting any to perish but all to come to repentance.***
1. That doesn't mean we just sit back and wait. In the meantime...

20 But you, beloved, building yourselves up on your most holy faith, praying in the Holy Spirit, 21 keep yourselves in the love of God, looking for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ unto eternal life. 22 And on some have compassion, making a distinction; 23 but others save with fear, pulling them out of the fire, hating even the garment defiled by the flesh.

III. But you...

a. ***keep yourselves in the love of God***

- i. ***John 15: 9 “As the Father loved Me, I also have loved you; abide in My love. 10 If you keep My commandments, you will abide in My love, just as I have kept My Father’s commandments and abide in His love.***

- 1. Jesus pleads with us – Let me love you. Give up control and let me be your guide
- 2. We are not convinced of the love of Christ and the power of Christ if we are not obedient to Christ
- 3. If I am convinced the Christ cares for me, and He knows all things, why wouldn’t I follow Him?

- ii. How? Three verbs - building, praying, and looking

b. ***building yourselves up on your most holy faith***

- i. Personal accountability – taking responsibility

- 1. Rom 10:17 – faith comes from hearing, and hearing through the Word of God

- a. Read it, think about it, talk about it, apply it – live it

c. ***praying in the Holy Spirit***

- i. Stark contrast to the false teachers who are devoid of the Spirit
- ii. ***Rom 8: 14 For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, these are sons of God. 15 For you did not receive the spirit of bondage again to fear, but you received the Spirit of adoption by whom we cry out, “Abba, Father.”***
- iii. Prayers of those who have received the love of God and remain in the love of God
 - 1. These are powerful prayers, life shaping and life changing

d. ***looking for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ unto eternal life***

- i. Mercy on our minds – heart of Christ – if we strip apologetics down to purely an intellectual pursuit – I know more than you and I’ll prove it – we have failed

IV. Nuance and Compassion

a. ***And on some have compassion***

- i. Compassion – we can care more about being right than caring about people
- ii. I was listening to someone share about time he felt he had failed in this area. He was arguing with someone over the existence of God - and the person he was arguing with asked, do you believe if someone commits suicide they go to hell?
 - 1. And this gentleman was proud of his response – he said whether they do or whether they don’t, that has nothing to do with the existence of God, so this is a red herring so why don’t you stay on topic?
 - 2. And he thought to himself – I got him! I called him out. I win. He was right – that had nothing to do with the existence of God
 - 3. Later he found out that he asked that because he wife had committed suicide
 - a. Looking back he cared more about being right than he cared about the person in front of him – He should have said “Why do you ask that?”
- iii. Isn’t that the example Jesus gave? Did he speak differently to the woman at the well then He did the Pharisees? The woman caught in adultery vs her accusers? Was there nuance in His approach?
 - 1. ***1 Peter 3:15 But sanctify the Lord God (Christ the Lord) in your hearts, and always be ready to give a defense to everyone who asks you a reason***

for the hope that is in you, with meekness and fear; 16 having a good conscience, that when they defame you as evildoers, those who revile your good conduct in Christ may be ashamed.

- iv. This comes from a man who was on the receiving end of this correction - *Gal 2:11 Now when Peter had come to Antioch, I withstood him to his face, because he was to be blamed; 12 for before certain men came from James, he would eat with the Gentiles; but when they came, he withdrew and separated himself, fearing those who were of the circumcision. 13 And the rest of the Jews also played the hypocrite with him, so that even Barnabas was carried away with their hypocrisy. 14 But when I saw that they were not straightforward about the truth of the gospel, I said to Peter before them all, "If you, being a Jew, live in the manner of Gentiles and not as the Jews, why do you compel Gentiles to live as Jews?*
 - 1. Careful that in our contention for the faith we do not misrepresent the heart of Christ by dehumanizing those that He desires to save
 - 2. Not just what we teach, but how live – good conduct!
- b. *but others save with fear, pulling them out of the fire*
 - i. The same Paul who pulled his brother aside and said – this isn't Jesus
 - 1. Also said about the Judaizers who were coming behind him adding to the simplicity and purity of the gospel - *Gal 5:7 You ran well. Who hindered you from obeying the truth? 8 This persuasion does not come from Him who calls you. 9 A little leaven leavens the whole lump. 10 I have confidence in you, in the Lord, that you will have no other mind; but he who troubles you shall bear his judgment, whoever he is. 11 And I, brethren, if I still preach circumcision, why do I still suffer persecution? Then the offense of the cross has ceased. 12 I could wish that those who trouble you would even cut themselves off!*
 - ii. Jesus called the religious leaders of His time – hypocrites, whitewashed tombs full of dead men's bones, blind guides, blind fools, poisonous snakes, children of hell, condemned to hell
 - 1. *For you shut the kingdom of heaven in people's faces. For you neither enter yourselves nor allow those who would enter to go in.*
- c. *making a distinction*
 - i. Spiritual triage – assessing the threat and responding accordingly
 - 1. Example of my wife in labor
 - ii. Some are deceivers others are deceived – what we need is discernment and that is sorely lacking in the church today
 - iii. Some are fearful others are confrontational
 - iv. Nothing is worth fighting for vs everything is worth fighting for
 - 1. But Jude provides balance and nuance – we start at a place of compassion and concern – the same compassion Christ has shown us, built up in the Word, led by the Spirit through prayer, looking for opportunities to show how merciful our God is

V. Closing

- a. As one commentator points out *"It is a dangerous thing to live for Christ in an atmosphere of false teaching. It is a hazardous thing to try to rescue men for the gospel out of such an environment"*
 - i. So Jude closes with this doxology – this reminder of the power and glory of God

- ii. A hymn or poem to be recited by those who are the called, set apart and loved by God the Father and kept in Christ.

Jude 24 Now to Him who is able to keep you from stumbling,
And to present you faultless
Before the presence of His glory with exceeding joy,
25 To God our Savior,
Who alone is wise,
Be glory and majesty,
Dominion and power,
Both now and forever.
Amen.