

Contending for the Faith

key verse: **3** Beloved, although I was very eager to write to you about our common salvation, I found it necessary to write appealing to you **to contend for the faith** that was once for all delivered to the saints.

Jude tells us there is a faith (a set of truths) that was **“once for all delivered to the saints”**

Read: Jude 1-4 ESV Jude, a servant of Jesus Christ and brother of James, To those who are called, beloved in God the Father and kept for Jesus Christ: **2** May mercy, peace, and love be multiplied to you. **3** Beloved, although I was very eager to write to you about our common salvation, I found it necessary to write appealing to you **to contend for the faith** that was once for all delivered to the saints. **4** For certain people have crept in unnoticed who long ago were designated for this condemnation, ungodly people, who pervert the grace of our God into sensuality and deny our only Master and Lord, Jesus Christ.

repeat verse 4 in NIV “... they are ungodly people, who **pervert the grace of our God** into a license for immorality and **deny Jesus Christ our only Sovereign and Lord...**”

v.12 ESV These are hidden reefs at your love feasts, as they feast with you without fear, shepherds feeding themselves; waterless clouds, swept along by winds; fruitless trees in late autumn, twice dead, uprooted...

(13) wild waves of the sea, casting up the foam of their own shame

v.16-21 NIV These people are grumblers and faultfinders; they follow **their own** evil desires; they boast about themselves....

17 “... remember what the apostles foretold. **18** ... “In the last times there will be scoffers who will follow **their own** ungodly desires.” **19** These are the people who divide you, who follow **mere natural instincts** and do not have the Spirit.

20 But you, dear friends, by **building yourselves up in your most holy faith** and **praying in the Holy Spirit**, **21 keep yourselves in God’s love** as you wait for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ to bring you to eternal life.

Recent surveys reveal:

- **46% of self-identified evangelicals believe that God accepts the worship of all religions, including Christianity Hinduism and Islam.**
- **55% believe they will earn a place in heaven by being generally good.**
- **Only 52% agree that sex outside of traditional marriage is a sin.**
- **54% do not believe they have a responsibility to share their faith with others.**

Contending for what?

1) **The Truth about Truth.**

- a) **God’s word delivered to us is Truth.**

i) John 17:17 Sanctify them by the truth; your word is truth.

ii) We must contend for Biblical Truth.

- (1) We must believe every promise
- (2) Avoid every sin
- (3) Obey every command

b) Heaven is Real.

i) Six times in John 6 it is stressed that Jesus came down from heaven.

John 6:38 -For I have come down from heaven, not to do my own will but the will of him who sent me.

ii) The bible calls heaven the dwelling place of God. It is also where the redeemed will dwell.

c) Hell is real.

many compromising church goers refuse to believe in a literal hell. Jude tells us otherwise

i) The Rebellious Angels v. 6 And the angels who did not keep their positions of authority but abandoned their proper dwelling—these he has kept in darkness, bound with everlasting chains for judgment on the great Day.

ii) Sodom and Gomorrah v. 7 In a similar way, Sodom and Gomorrah and the surrounding towns gave themselves up to sexual immorality and perversion. They serve as an example of those who suffer the punishment of eternal fire.

iii) "Jesus never taught about a literal hell"

(1) Matthew 25:31-33 NIV When the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, he will sit on his glorious throne. **32** All the nations will be gathered before him, and he will separate the people one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats. **33** He will put the sheep on his right and the goats on his left.

(2) verse 41 Then he will say to those on his left, 'Depart from me, you who are cursed, **into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels.**'

d) Jesus is the only way to God.

i) Jude says in verse 4 they deny Jesus as the only Master and Lord

ii) Natural Questions: Is Christ the only way? Don't all religions lead to God? Are Christians really so narrow-minded and intolerant?

If you're Christian, you've probably encountered these or similar questions. If you're not a Christian, you may have asked some of these questions yourself.

iii) Truth is not a matter of Taste

2) The Truth about You.

a) Jude begins and ends his letter with some very encouraging for Christians.

v. 1 Jude, a servant of Jesus Christ and a brother of James, To those who have been called, who are loved in God the Father and kept for Jesus Christ

v. 24 To him who is able to keep you from stumbling and to present you before his glorious presence without fault and with great joy

b) What do you say when the enemy tries to defeat you with fear?

i) God has called me out of unbelief.

ii) I am Loved in God the Father and He has made me His child.

iii) I have confidence in His ability to keep me from stumbling

c) Let love be multiplied in you!

Jude verse 2 May mercy, peace, and **love be multiplied to you**

1 Cor 16:13,14 Be on your guard; stand firm in the faith; be courageous; be strong. 14 **Do everything in love.**

In the world of compromise and confusion about God, we must stand strong in our faith but do everything in love.

Conclusion:

The law says to stone her “what do you say?” John 8:5