

Contending for the Faith (2)

Text: Jude 3-4 NIV Dear friends, although I was very eager to write to you about the salvation we share, I felt compelled to write and urge you to **contend for the faith** that was once for all entrusted to God's holy people. **4** For certain individuals whose condemnation was written about long ago have secretly slipped in among you. 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.

The New Testament presents numerous warnings to believers to avoid strange teachings from false teachers.

- **Jesus** called them "wolves in sheep's clothing".
- **Paul** called them "vicious dogs"
- **John** calls them "false prophets who are motivated by an Anti-Christ Spirit"
- **Jude** calls them "ungodly perverts" 'ungodly people who perverters of God's Grace.

(Jude 16) "fault-finding grumblers who are filled with lust and arrogance" in verses 17 and 18 he says they are Lust-filled, divisive mockers!

How to Contend for the Faith

- 1) Be aware of their deceptions and fight for the truth.
 - a) **2 major deceptions: (1) Jesus is not the only way to God (2) God's grace puts us above God's moral law.**
 - b) verse 4, "... have secretly slipped in among you. 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.**"
 - i) Teaching that God's Grace Gives Us a License for Immorality.

Surveys reveal that only 52% of evangelicals and orthodox Christians would agree that sex outside of traditional marriage is a sin.

- (1) Revised Standard Version use the word licentiousness

"... pervert the grace of our God into licentiousness..." (v. 4)

"Licentiousness" means debauchery, which is an open and excessive indulgence in sexual sins.

Licentious people have no sense of shame or restraint.

The false teachers "perverted" or twisted God's grace, saying that freedom from sin means that people can live any way they please, fulfilling their sinful pleasures without inhibition.

Grace gives is freedom from sin, not freedom to sin.

(2) "Grace" gives Christians freedom from sin and from the law. However, the purpose of this freedom is to move people to holy living and service to God.

(3) Twisting God's grace to allow for flagrant sexual sin is a horrible perversion of the gospel.

ii) Denying Jesus as our Only Master and Lord.

Remember last week: Recent surveys have discovered that 46% of self-identified evangelicals believe that God accepts the worship of all religions, including Christianity Hinduism and Islam.

(1) With their flagrant sexual sinning in the name of God's grace, these false teachers were denying Christ as their Master and Lord, replacing him with themselves and their appetites.

(2) By their actions and their words, they were also teaching that Jesus is not the ONLY Lord and Sovereign God.

I John 2:22 Who is the liar but he who denies that Jesus is the Christ? This is the antichrist, he who denies the Father and the Son.

b) Identifying Twisted Truth

- i) Does it elevate man-made rules, restrictions and /or liberties beyond God's grace?
- ii) Does it foster a critical spirit toward others, or does it shame others publicly?
- iii) Does it emphasize formulas, secret knowledge, or special visions more than or along with the Word of God?
- iv) Does it elevate self, certain leaders, and those who keep the rules, rather than elevating Christ?
- v) Does it claim to be an elite group while neglecting the universal church of Christ Jesus?

Know the Truth and walk in Grace!

- Truth without grace is mean
- Grace without truth is meaningless

2) Build yourself up by praying in the Holy Spirit.

v.19,20 (NET) "These people are divisive, worldly, **devoid of the Spirit.** 20 But you, dear friends, by building yourselves up in your most holy faith, by praying in the Holy Spirit..."

a) Keep the inner void filled with the Spirit.

- i) Let me remind you how much Jesus stressed that you have a relationship with the Holy Spirit.

John 16:7 I tell you the truth: it is to your advantage that I go away, for if I do not go away, the Helper will not come to you. But if I go, I will send him to you.

verse 13, When the Spirit of truth comes, he will guide you into all the truth

- ii) There is a “truth-knowing” anointing that abides in those who are filled with the Spirit.

Note: John warning us about the deception of the spirit of Anti-Christ that operates in the world
1 John 2:27 NIV As for you, the anointing you received from him remains in you, and you do not need anyone to teach you. But as his anointing teaches you about all things and as that **anointing is real, not counterfeit**—just as it has taught you, remain in him.

When your anointing is activated it is exposing counterfeit truth, because the Holy Spirit is Truth.

The Holy Spirit can identify if something is of Jesus or Not!

- b) Learn how to pray in the Spirit.

20 But you, dear friends, by building yourselves up in your most holy faith, by praying in the Holy Spirit...”

Prayer Activates your Truth-Knowing Anointing

- i) Develop your Prayer Life. stoke the fires of your prayer life!

- (1) **Pray** in your private time with God each day over the Word.
- (2) **Pray** with your family at meals and in devotions.
- (3) **Pray** with husband or wife whenever or however a need arises.
- (4) **Pray** with roommates and friends.
- (5) **Pray** in your C – Groups, with your church family.
- (6) **Pray** at in the stated times at CL
 - (a) Monday Nights (which is moving to Thursdays).
 - (b) Pre-Service on Sunday Morning.
 - (c) 1st Wednesdays Worship and Prayer Nights.

Jude is teaching us that prayer is a means of God’s grace designed to keep us from falling into disbelief

- ii) Learn how to Pray in the Spirit.

The power of the Holy Spirit is very much connected to our prayer life:

Ephesians 6:18 NIV And **pray in the Spirit** on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests. With this in mind, **be alert** and always keep on praying for all the Lord’s people.

Romans 8:26 Likewise the Spirit **helps us in our weakness**. For we do not know what to pray for as we ought, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us with groanings too deep for words.

We must trust God that He has given us the Holy Spirit to help us pray!!!

2 Aspects of praying in the Spirit

(1) Pray in your prayer language.

Praying in tongues is one way a believer builds himself up.

- (a) Note: In 1 Cor 14, we are told that there is a time when the building up and strengthening the church is a priority. But there is also a time when a person needs to build himself up in his holy faith.

Paul addresses these two issues in 1 Corinthians 14.

1 Cor. 14:1-5 ESV Pursue love, and earnestly desire spiritual gifts, especially that you may prophesy. **2** For one who speaks in a tongue speaks not to men but to God; for no one understands him, but he utters mysteries in the Spirit. **3** On the other hand, the one who prophesies speaks to people for their upbuilding and encouragement and consolation. **4** The one who speaks in a tongue **builds up himself**, but the one who prophesies builds up the church. **5** Now I want you all to speak in tongues, but even more to prophesy...

1Cor. 14:14,15 For if I pray in a tongue, my spirit prays but my mind is unfruitful. **15** What am I to do? I will pray with my spirit, but I will pray with my mind also; I will sing praise with my spirit, but I will sing with my mind also.

(2) Pray with your mind by the Spirit.

To pray with your mind simply means to pray under the guidance and leading of the Holy Spirit.

- (a) Obey the impulses to pray.

(i) We must trust the Spirit for the help we need to pray.

(ii) If you are feeling motivated to pray... it is probably the Holy Spirit because the devil is not going to motivate you to pray! So obey the impulse and pray!

- (b) Pray what He impresses on your heart.

(i) By the way, it should always line up with the **heart of Jesus, His will, and His word**.

(ii) Example: in Luke 9 Jesus is on his way down to Jerusalem. He sent messengers ahead of him to a town in Samaria to prepare for his arrival. But the people in this village sent word back that He was not welcome in their town.

Luke 9:54-56 NLT When James and John saw this, they said to Jesus, "Lord, should we call down fire from heaven to burn them up?" **55** But Jesus turned and rebuked them.

56 So they went on to another village.

3) Maintain yourself in the love of God.

v,20,21 "... building yourselves up in your most holy faith, by praying in the Holy Spirit, 21 **maintain yourselves** in the **love of God...**"

a) Maintain yourself with the love of God.

i) How do you maintain yourself with love? follow the example of Jesus.

(1) Jesus had so many enemies and yet he walked in love!

(2) This is why the godless people were drawn to him: rebels, prostitutes, thieves, greedy tax collectors... sinners!

They felt loved, even when he told them the truth.

Truth without grace is mean... truth without love is mean.

b) Remain in His Love.

John 15:9,10 NIV "As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you. Now remain in my love. **10** If you keep my commands, you will remain in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commands and remain in his love.

i) Jesus stay in the fight, he kept the Father's command even when it was hard because he knew he was loved.

Jude vv. 21-25 NIV keep yourselves in God's love as you wait for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ to bring you to eternal life.

22 Be merciful to those who doubt; **23** save others by snatching them from the fire; to others show mercy, mixed with fear—hating even the clothing stained by corrupted flesh.

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— **25** to the only God our Savior be glory, majesty, power and authority, through Jesus Christ our Lord, before all ages, now and forevermore! Amen.