

COMMUNITY GROUPS

Living out the gospel with
one another in our homes

Sermon: Ted Rastatter 6.18.23

Text: Jude 17-25

Questions: Ted Rastatter

Overview

Jude wrote his letter appealing to the believing community to contend for the faith (3). “*Certain people*” had crept in stealthily and were perverting the grace of God into sensuality or licentiousness, proving that Jesus wasn’t truly their Lord (4). He warned the believers that Israel’s history teaches that judgment will surely come on those who continue to willfully and persistently practice sin (5-16).

Jude then addresses how the believing community should practically contend for their faith. The overall command in verse 20-21 is that the believers should “*keep yourselves in the love of God*” in three ways: building yourselves up in your most holy faith, praying in the Holy Spirit, waiting for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ that leads to eternal life.

In verses 22-23 Jude offers steps for dealing with people in doubt and those who are succumbing to the influence of those in unbelief.

He concludes his letter in worship to God as the one who ultimately keeps us and is able to present us blameless before the face of God (24-25).

Discussion Questions

1. Ultimately, it is God who keeps us. Yet Christians hold responsibility for “*keeping ourselves*”. What role does the gospel play in building up believers? How have you experienced being built up or when have you seen this at work in others?
2. What does it mean to pray in the Holy Spirit?
3. How do we wait for the return of Jesus? Note* a better word in English might be to anticipate. How do we anticipate? Jesus’ return is good news. How is it good news specifically for your life and circumstances?
4. How do we show mercy for doubters and those going astray? Are there people in your life who fit in the categories of verses 22-23? How can you and will you intervene?

Prayer

Spend some time in unstructured prayerful dependence on God. Encourage one another to pray aloud as the Holy Spirit leads you. Prayer shouldn’t be polished. Just speak to God – encourage those who are more timid that their courage to pray with the believers builds all of us up.