

- I) V16 These are murmurers, complainers, walking according to their own lusts
Jude has written a short letter to warn the church about false teachers
- II) As already mentioned, very early in our history false teachers began to infiltrate
They referred to the gospel, the Father, the Son Jesus, and the Holy Spirit
They spoke of themselves as apostles or prophets, claiming to speak for God
- III) Paul spoke of this when writing to the Corinthians
False apostles had entered the church and were considered super apostles
They were bringing in a false gospel
2 Co 11:4 For if he who comes preaches **another Jesus** whom we have not preached, or if you receive a **different spirit** which you have not received, or a **different gospel which** you have not accepted, you may well put up with it
- IV) Paul had to identify these deceivers
2 Co 11:13-15 For such people are false apostles, deceitful workers, masquerading as apostles of Christ. And no wonder, for **Satan himself masquerades** as an angel of light. It is not surprising, then, if **his** servants also **masquerade** as servants of righteousness. Their end will be what their actions deserve.
- V) In Jude 15 he said Jesus would **execute judgment** on them
The gospel was to be presented in its clearest form, and not to be modified
Gal 1:8-9 But even if we, or an angel from heaven, preach any **other** gospel to you than what we have preached to you, let him be accursed. As we have said before, so now I say again, if anyone preaches **any other gospel** to you than what you have received, **let him be accursed** (anathema: devoted to destruction).
- VI) The truth of the gospel is **that important**
- VII) So many of the early letters we read give warnings about these false teachers
2 Pe 2:1-2 But there were also false prophets among the people, even as there will be **false teachers** among you, who will secretly bring in destructive heresies, even denying the Lord who bought them, and bring on themselves swift destruction. And many will follow **their destructive ways**, because of whom the way of truth will be blasphemed
- VIII) These false teachers had infiltrated, and Jude was warning the church

- I) He has given a long list of their traits
This is because by their fruit, you will know them

- II) They are ungodly, licentious, deniers, dreamers who defile the flesh, rebellious, blasphemers, ignorant, brute beasts, corrupt, spiritual murderers, greedy, morally blemished, gluttons, self-serving, empty, fruitless, destructive, and unstable

- III) He now continues identifying the traits of the false teachers
This is where we left off in our last study

- IV) V16 they are **grumblers**: One who discontentedly complains against God
Complainers: Discontented, constantly expressing a grievance; faultfinders
This speaks of the constant critical attitude of these false teachers

- V) V16 **Walking** according to their own lusts (V19), speaking of **their way of life**
They live according to their own fleshly passions and evil inclinations

- VI) V16 They mouth **great swelling words**
This speaks of their immoderate, arrogant empty preaching and claims
2 Pe 2:18 For they mouth **empty, boastful words** and, by appealing to the lustful desires of sinful human nature, they **entice people** who are just escaping from those who live in error

- VII) V16 Flattering people to gain advantage (ladder climbers)
They literally honor people for the sake of their own personal advantage
Jas 2:1 My brethren, have not the faith of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Lord of glory, with respect of persons.

- VIII) V17 But you beloved **remember the words** which were spoken before by the
How are they going to be protected from these false teachers?
Remember the words which were spoken before **by the Apostles**

- IX) **Clinging** to what they have been taught safeguards them from the enemy's lies
Eph. 4:14 says by being taught: We will no longer be infants, tossed back and forth by the waves, and blown here and there by every wind of teaching and by the cunning and craftiness of men in their deceitful scheming.

- I) Their protection lies in their holding fast to God's Word
This is how the Lord would protect them from the lies of the false teachers
Ac 2:42 They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and to the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer.
- II) V18 How **they told you** that there would be mockers in the last time
The church is to be vigilant, because we have been prepared in advance for this
1 Ti 4:1-2 The Spirit clearly says that in later times some will abandon the faith and follow deceiving spirits and things taught by demons. Such teachings come through hypocritical liars, whose consciences have been seared as with a hot iron
2 Ti 4:3 For the time will come when men will not tolerate sound doctrine, but with itching ears they will gather around themselves teachers to suit their own desires.
- III) V19 They are **sensual** persons who **cause divisions** not having **the Spirit**
Sensual: Live according to the inclinations of their unregenerate nature; carnal
Ro 8:6-8 The mind of sinful man is death, but the mind controlled by the Spirit is life and peace; the sinful mind is hostile to God. It does not submit to God's law, nor can it do so. Those controlled by the sinful nature cannot please God.
- IV) The fruit of their lives and message is that **they cause divisions**
They make it seem that if you are not with them, then you are not truly spiritual
Be aware of those who make **their group** the **exclusive way** to God
- V) Important: The word of God does divide the believer from the unbeliever
Those who do not love the Lord reject His word to them
Jn 8:47 Whoever belongs to God hears what God says. The reason you do not hear is that you do not belong to God.
- VI) The spiritual fruit of accurate teaching in the Church is unity in Jesus
We have a unity in the Lord, through His Spirit, and maintain our unity in Him
Eph. 4:3 Make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace.
- VII) The reason they are divisive is because they are devoid of God's Spirit
They are unsaved, and as a result do not the Spirit's inspiration
Ro 8:9 But you are not in the flesh, but in the Spirit, if so be that the Spirit of God dwell in you. Now if any man have not the Spirit of Christ, he is none of his.

- I) Again, this is because they are sensual
- II) V20 But you beloved **building yourselves up** on your most holy faith
He closes by giving them a way to promote their spiritual growth
- III) V20 **First**: They must **build themselves** up in their most holy faith
Build: To finish the structure of which the foundation has already been laid
They are to increase in Christian knowledge and in a life conformed to Christ
- IV) **First**: Jesus is to be the center and foundation of their lives
Col. 2:6-7 So then, just as you received Christ Jesus as Lord, continue to live in him, rooted and built up in him, strengthened in the faith as you were taught, and overflowing with thankfulness.
- V) **Second**: Because **He is**, they must keep a close watch on what they *do and believe*
1 Ti 4:16 Watch your **life** and **doctrine** closely. Persevere in them, because if you do, you will save both yourself and your hearers.
- VI) **Third**: They should determine to obey what God has taught them
They were once slaves to sin, but now they are servants of God (full time)
Ro 6:17 But thanks be to God that, though you used to be slaves to sin, you wholeheartedly obeyed the form of teaching to which you were entrusted.
- VII) V20 They are to **continue praying** in the Holy Spirit
They are to pray in the wisdom and strength provided by the Spirit
Eph. 6:18 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 saints.
Ro 8:26-27 In the same way, the Spirit helps us in our weakness. We do not know what we ought to pray for, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us with groans that words cannot express. And he who searches our hearts knows the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints in accordance with God's will.
- VIII) This means their lives must be marked by a personal familiarity with the Holy Spirit
2 Co 13:14 May the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and **the fellowship of the Holy Spirit** be with you all.
Ro 8:14 For those who are led by the Spirit of God are the children of God.

- I) As we have gone through Acts, we have seen how the Spirit led the church
- II) The believers would pray and wait on the Lord, and the Spirit would lead them
God's Spirit leads us as we seek Him and wait on Him
Ac 8:29 The Spirit said to Philip, Go over to that chariot and stay by it
Ac 10:19 As Peter continued to reflect on the vision, the Spirit said to him Behold, three men are looking for you
Ac 13:2 While they were worshiping the Lord and fasting, the Holy Spirit said, "Set apart for me Barnabas and Saul for the work to which I have called them."
- III) This kind of intimacy is the result of a maturing walk with the Lord
It is revealed in obedience to the word and sincere seeking and prayer
- IV) V21 **Third**: Keep yourselves **in** the love of God
This would obviously be most understood by keeping close to Jesus
Jn 15:9 As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you. Now abide in my love.
- V) The mark of a Christian will always be the love of God
The false teacher does not love God (Scott/Chuck)
1 Jn 4:8 Whoever does not love does not know God, because God is love.
1 Jn 4:16 And so we know and rely on the love God has for us. God is love.
Whoever **lives in love** lives in God, and God in him.
- VI) The key is knowing that it isn't how much we love Him
It is knowing how much He has loved us
Only genuine believers can know this
- VII) **Fourth: Looking for** the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ unto eternal life
Keep your eyes focused on the mercy of the Lord, revealed in Jesus
Titus 3:5 He saved us, not because of righteous things we had done, but *because of his mercy*. He saved us through the washing of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit
- VIII) **Looking for** speaks of patient endurance and hope as we wait for Him to return
Titus 2:13 while we wait for the blessed hope—the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ
- IX) V20-21 encourage us to three essential elements of our walk: faith, hope, love

- I) V22 And on some have **compassion** making a distinction
Compassion: To help one afflicted or seeking aid
- II) Who are these **some**? Those who they are trying to reach with the gospel
- III) There are some with sensitive hearts, and you approach them gently
This isn't a witnessing technique but is in fact being aware of their sensitivity
- IV) There is a gentleness and mildness in the way that you share
Like when Jesus ministered to the woman caught in adultery
- V) This would include those influenced by false teachers
We need to be sensitive to their hurts
- VI) V23 But others save **with fear** pulling them out of the fire
Pulling them from the fire speaks of strong and direct language
- VII) John the Baptist spoke strongly and directly when he had to
Mt 3:7 when he saw many of the Pharisees and Sadducees coming to where he was baptizing, he said to them: "You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the coming wrath?"
- VIII) Jesus spoke very directly to the Pharisees
Mt 12:34 **You brood of vipers**, how can you who are evil say anything good? For the mouth speaks what the heart is full of!
Mt 23:33 You snakes! You brood of vipers! How will you escape being condemned to hell?
- VIII) When He spoke to Nicodemus, He was very direct
Jesus told him that he could not enter the kingdom with being born again
- IX) This caused Nicodemus' head to explode, and asked how this is possible
Jn 3:10 Jesus answered and said to him Are you the teacher of Israel, and **do not know these things**?
That is a very direct thing to say
- X) There are times, with loving intensity, you may say something very directly

- I) Sometimes you may speak more directly to those infected by false teachers
They have not only been deceived, but are infecting others with this infection
1 Ti 1:3 As I urged you when I went into Macedonia, stay there in Ephesus so that you may command certain people not to teach false doctrines any longer
- II) V23 Hating even the garment defiled by the flesh
Their very clothing is stained by corrupted flesh
- III) In scripture, garments would be contaminated in various ways
If someone came into contact with some with leprosy, their garment was stained
If a garment was stained with semen, or menstrual blood, it was unclean
If someone touched a dead body, he would be unclean
- IV) The idea is that false teachers spiritually infect people, and undermine their walks
Their teachings stumble believers and can keep others from coming to Jesus
- V) The idea is that when sharing the word with them to hate their errors
Avoid their doctrine and if they are believers, avoid them
2 Th 3:14 And if any man obey not our word by this epistle, note that man, and have no company with him, that he may be ashamed
- VI) V24 Now to Him who is able to **keep you from stumbling** and to **present you**
After carefully exhorting against false doctrine, Jude closes by encouraging them
- VII) This reminds me of something found in Hebrews
Heb 6:9 Even though we speak like this, dear friends, we are convinced of better things in your case—the things that have to do with salvation
- VIII) He had begun his letter by saying they were preserved in Jesus Christ (V1)
He now returns to this and expresses his confidence in their true faith
- IX) In the end, we have a God who is able to keep (guard) us from falling (stumbling)
God is able to keep us sure-footed, and to protect us as we follow Him
He provides a way for us to keep us from stumbling into sin
1 Co 10:13 No temptation has overtaken you except such as is common to man; but God is faithful, who will not allow you to be tempted beyond what you are able, but with the temptation will also make the way of escape, that you may be able to bear it.

- I) V24 to present you **faultless** before the presence of His glory with exceeding joy
It is God who has saved us, and it is He who has cleansed us from all sin
2 Co 5:21 God made him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

- II) We are presented faultless on the day of judgment
Col 1:22 But now He has reconciled you by Christ's physical body through death to present you holy in His sight, **without blemish** and free from accusation

- III) V25 To God our Savior who alone is wise be glory and majesty dominion
In His wisdom, he make it possible to be saved
To Him belongs all glory, for His love and salvation
To Him belongs all majesty (greatness)
To Him belongs all dominion (strength and power) mighty deeds
To Him belongs all power (authority) both now and forever