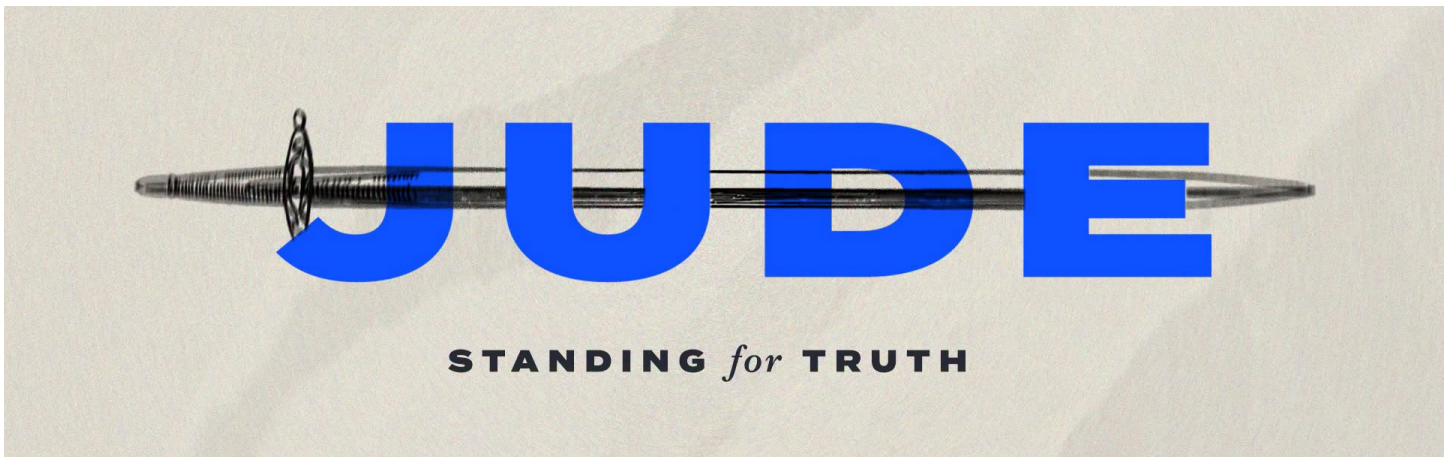




Jude: Standing for Truth – Empty Religion, Real Danger

Have you ever bought something that looked amazing in the advertisement, but once you got it home you realized it wasn't what it promised to be? What happened?

Read: Jude 12–13 – Six vivid pictures describing false teachers and empty religion.

What did you notice... about the six pictures Jude uses (dangerous reefs, selfish shepherds, clouds without rain, fruitless trees, wild waves, wandering stars)? Which image stood out to you most, and why?

What do you think these illustrations reveal about the danger of false teaching? Why do you think Jude focuses more on people's character than simply listing their incorrect beliefs?

The sermon pointed out that false teachers often "look the part, sound the part, and claim the part," but ultimately fail to produce lasting spiritual fruit.

What are some safe guards that need to be put in place to ensure that we aren't cynical, suspicious, or judgmental with our leaders?

What happens to our hearts when we don't keep them in check?

One of the strongest contrasts in the message was this: False leaders consume people. Godly leaders serve people. Where have you personally experienced leadership that pointed people toward Jesus instead of toward itself? What made the difference?

Read Jude 14-15 - A prophecy from Enoch

This Enochian prophecy, like other prophecies, depicts the coming judgement of Jesus Christ. What would some healthy responses from Believers to prophecy like this be?

Read: Ephesians 5:25-28 - Paints a picture of Jesus sanctifying us with the Word

Read: John 17:17-18 - Jesus's prayer for our sanctification.

When looking at 1 Enoch and comparing it to the Biblical Canon we see many significant differences. (See: **1 Enoch and the Canon: A Comparison Scorecard for Congregational Study**)

The Four Standard Criteria of Canonicity

Across the historic traditions, the Church has discerned the canon through a cluster of tests rather than a single vote. Four recur in nearly every discussion:

1. **Antiquity** — Does the writing come from the era of prophetic/apostolic witness?
2. **Prophetic/Apostolic Authorship** — Is it traceable to a recognized prophet or apostle (or their close circle)?
3. **Community Acceptance** — Was it received and used as Scripture by the people of God broadly, not merely by one sect?
4. **Theological Consistency** — Does it cohere with the rule of faith already received in Scripture?

In recognizing where 1 Enoch falls short, we can also see where Canonical scripture does hit the mark. Why would this be helpful in defending the faith?

Read: Jude 16–19 – Jude's encouragement to remember the apostles' teaching and recognize those who create division.

Jude describes people who are driven by selfish desires, pride, and division. Why do you think division is such an effective strategy of the enemy? What practical habits help preserve unity within a church or family?

The sermon challenged us to reject the cultural idea of "live your truth" and instead embrace Jesus as the Truth (John 14:6). Where do you see our culture redefining truth today? How can Christians stand firmly for truth while still demonstrating humility and compassion?

Close the group in prayer, praying for growth in discernment and personal sanctification for each member.