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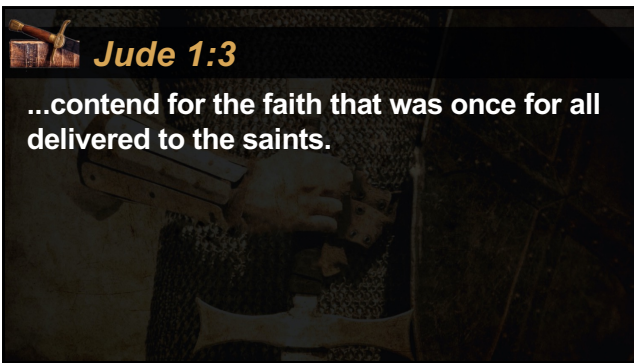
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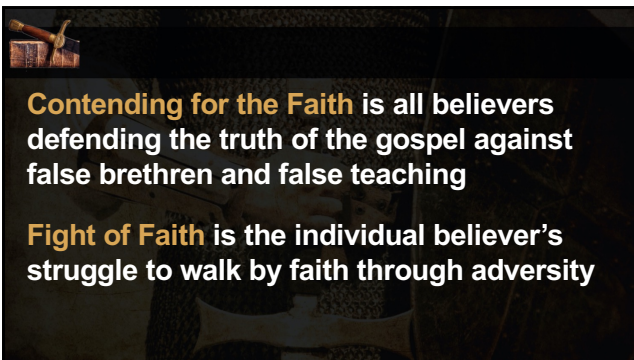
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**Contending**

The Greek word translated “contending” is a compound verb from which we get the word agonize. Jude says that there will be a constant fight against false teaching and Christians should take it so seriously that we “agonize” over the fight in which we are engaged.

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**Jude 1**

1 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.

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**Jude 1**

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.

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**Identify Your Convictions**

-"one cannot hold a belief unless one can somehow describe that belief."  
 -"beliefs must be held individually and personally"

**1. Preferences**  
 a belief that will change under certain circumstances or pressure

**2. Convictions**  
 A belief that will not change under any circumstances or pressure

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**Apostles Creed**

I believe in God, the Father almighty,  
 creator of heaven and earth.  
 I believe in Jesus Christ,  
 his only Son, our Lord,  
 who was conceived by the Holy Spirit  
 and born of the virgin Mary.

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**Apostles Creed**

He suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
 was crucified, died, and was buried;  
 he descended to hell.  
 The third day he rose again from the dead.  
 He ascended to heaven and is seated at the  
 right hand of God the Father almighty.  
 From there he will come to judge the living  
 and the dead.

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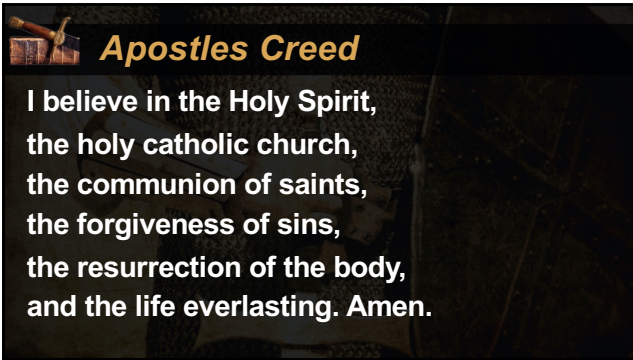
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**Apostles Creed**  
I believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the holy catholic church,  
the communion of saints,  
the forgiveness of sins,  
the resurrection of the body,  
and the life everlasting. Amen.

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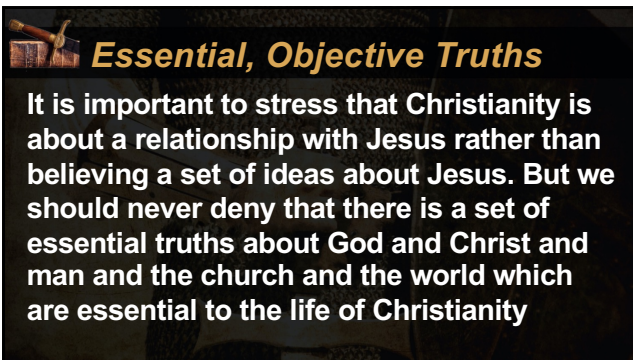
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**Essential, Objective Truths**  
It is important to stress that Christianity is about a relationship with Jesus rather than believing a set of ideas about Jesus. But we should never deny that there is a set of essential truths about God and Christ and man and the church and the world which are essential to the life of Christianity

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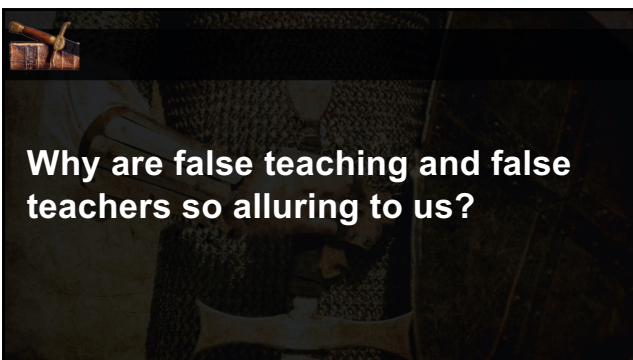
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**Why are false teaching and false teachers so alluring to us?**

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**Contending with Preferences**

1. Play off our preferences

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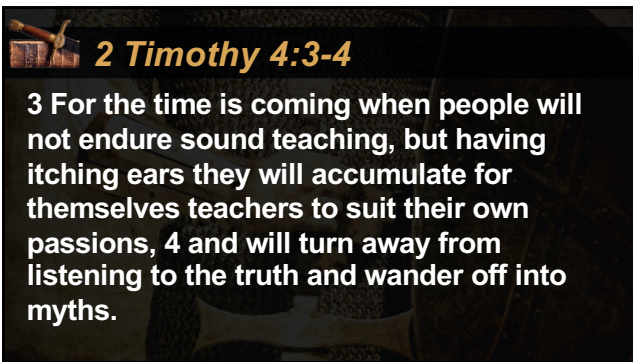
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**2 Timothy 4:3-4**

3 For the time is coming when people will not endure sound teaching, but having itching ears they will accumulate for themselves teachers to suit their own passions, 4 and will turn away from listening to the truth and wander off into myths.

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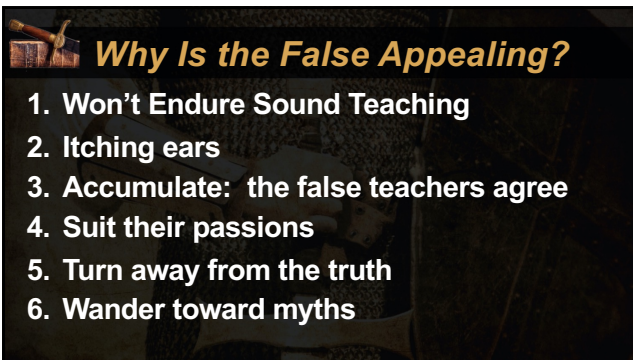
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**Why Is the False Appealing?**

1. Won't Endure Sound Teaching
2. Itching ears
3. Accumulate: the false teachers agree
4. Suit their passions
5. Turn away from the truth
6. Wander toward myths

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**Itching Ears**

1. I really want the sense of guilt of sin to be assuaged by someone.
2. I want my pursuit of cash and comfort over Christ and Church to be affirmed and encouraged.
3. I really want to force my preference as a conviction for the entire church.

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**Jude 1**

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.

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**Crept in Unnoticed**

to join surreptitiously with evil intent—'to slip into a group unnoticed, to join unnoticed.' as by a side door

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**Acts 20**

29 I know that after my departure fierce wolves will come in among you, not sparing the flock; 30 and from among your own selves will arise men speaking twisted things, to draw away the disciples after them.

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**Contending with Preferences**

1. False Teaching plays off our preferences
2. False Teaching manipulates our passions

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**Four Loves - C.S. Lewis**

1. Storge (Affection)
2. Philia (Friendship)
3. Eros (Romantic)
4. Agape (Love of God)

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**Storge (Affection)**

Affection covers an array of loves. Like animals, the care of mother to babe is a picture of affection. It relies on the expected and the familiar “Affection almost slinks or seeps through our lives...It lives with humble, un-dress, private things; soft slippers, old clothes, old jokes, the thump of a sleepy dog’s tail on the kitchen floor...” Affection can sit alongside other loves and often does

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**Storge (Affection)**

Affection for things: animals, objects, places, food , culture, music, town, City landscape

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**Storge (Affection)**

1. Christian Musical Styles
2. Bible version
3. Idiosyncrasy of church, minister/ministry
4. American Culture
5. Home Town, Home State
6. US Form of Government or History

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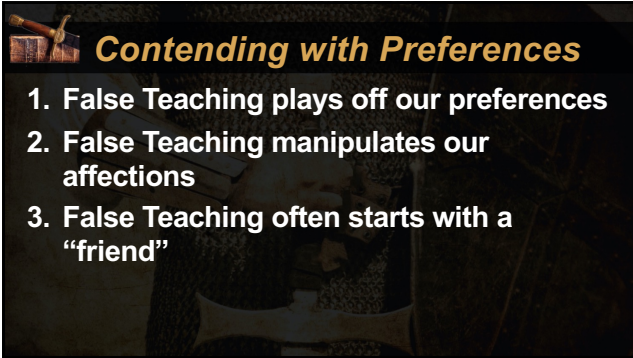
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**Contending with Preferences**

1. False Teaching plays off our preferences
2. False Teaching manipulates our affections
3. False Teaching often starts with a “friend”

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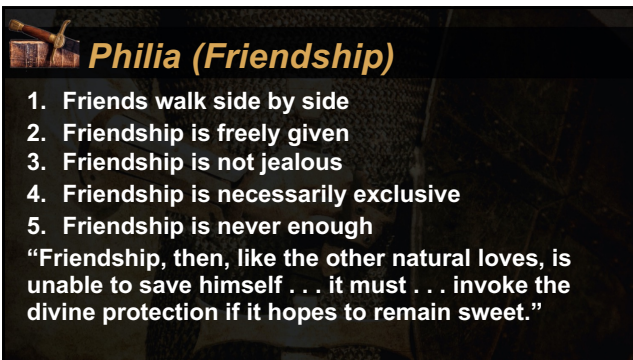
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**Philia (Friendship)**

1. Friends walk side by side
2. Friendship is freely given
3. Friendship is not jealous
4. Friendship is necessarily exclusive
5. Friendship is never enough

“Friendship, then, like the other natural loves, is unable to save himself . . . it must . . . invoke the divine protection if it hopes to remain sweet.”

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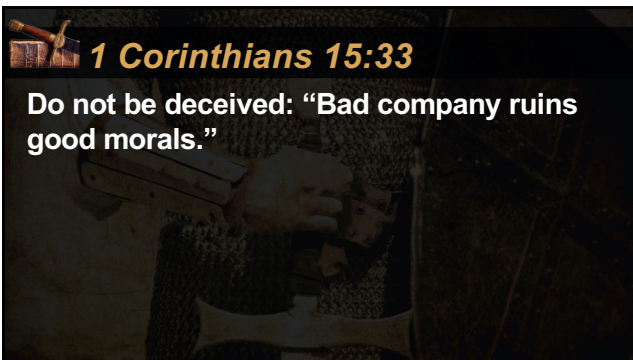
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**1 Corinthians 15:33**

Do not be deceived: “Bad company ruins good morals.”

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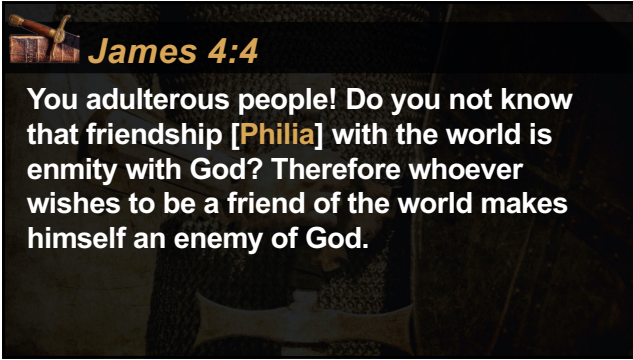
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**James 4:4**  
 You adulterous people! Do you not know that friendship [**Philia**] with the world is enmity with God? Therefore whoever wishes to be a friend of the world makes himself an enemy of God.

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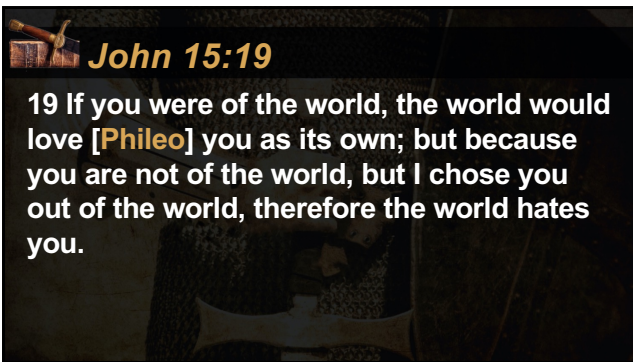
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**John 15:19**  
 19 If you were of the world, the world would love [**Phileo**] you as its own; but because you are not of the world, but I chose you out of the world, therefore the world hates you.

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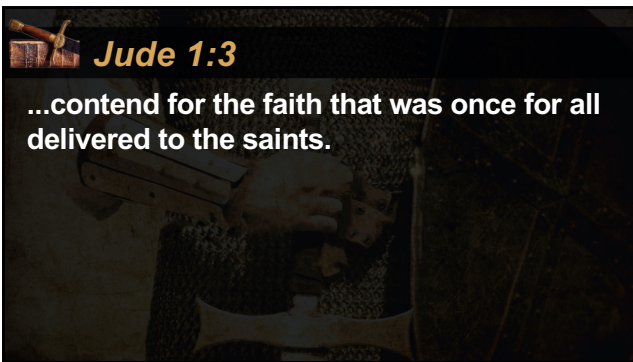
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**Jude 1:3**  
 ...contend for the faith that was once for all delivered to the saints.

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