

# Contend Earnestly For the Faith Which Was Once For All Handed Down to the Saints

## An Expository Study of the **Epistle of Jude**

### Chapter 15- How to Combat Heresy **Jude 17-21**

### 177 How to Combat Heresy Part 13

---

WOSM Thursday 07/10/08

Welcome again my beloved in Jesus Christ. We're continuing our verse by verse "journey" through the **Epistle of Jude** and today we are continuing to go over what Jude taught about "How to Combat Heresy." So, let's open our Bibles and read **Jude 17-21** again together:

**17 But you, beloved, ought to remember the words that were spoken beforehand by the apostles of our Lord Jesus Christ,**

**18 that they were saying to you, "In the last time there will be mockers, following after their own ungodly lusts."**

**19 These are the ones who cause divisions, worldly-minded, devoid of the Spirit.**

**20 But you, beloved, building yourselves up on your most holy faith, praying in the Holy Spirit,**

**21 keep yourselves in the love of God, waiting anxiously for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ to eternal life.**

Now here in verses 20 and 21- Jude gives us four ways that we can effectively combat heresy:

1. Build up ourselves on our most holy Faith
2. Pray in the Holy Ghost
3. Keep ourselves in the Love of God
4. Look for the Mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ unto eternal life

And in this mini-series, we are going over the first of the four ways that Jude gave us to combat heresy when it comes to our Church.

#### **1. Build Up Yourself on Your Most Holy Faith**

Now as believers, after we have received Christ by Faith into our hearts, we are commanded to grow in Grace. You see, all of us are weak and immature when we are first saved- and that is understandable- but if we *remain* weak; if we *remain* spiritually immature after Salvation- then we are disobeying the commands of Jesus Christ to grow up. Sadly, there are many in the Church today who received Christ by Faith many years ago, but these people have never grown in Grace since the day they were Justified. They have remained spiritually immature and are still weak and unable to discern false teaching when it is presented to them. This lack of growth is not an oversight- it is rebellion.

In addition to many people rebelling against the Will of God in growing in Grace- many churches today have systematically and completely abandoned every single avenue which allows their people to build themselves on their most holy Faith and instead have pursued carnal programs and worldly teachings which do not have the ability to bring young converts into spiritual maturity.

Beloved, God loves all the little children and so should we. And we all know that children are irresponsible, and they are immature, and they act like- well, they act like children. And that is fine because they *are* children. But the goal of every parent worth his salt is to see to it that their children do not *remain* immature and childish and irresponsible- but good and responsible parents see to it that their children are adequately prepared for life and so they place before their children activities, and education and discipline that are specifically designed to cause these children to grow up and become adult.

You see, dear friends, the measurement of whether a child is an adult is not his age. I know 35 year old men who are still immature and childish. We think today that because a child graduates from high school that that makes them an adult. It doesn't. Most 19 year old girls still have a head full of air and most 19 year old boys still are driven by their youthful lusts. That is just a fact of life and responsible adults do not turn immature children out into life without properly training them. That is like giving a monkey a machine gun.

Whether they want it or not and especially when they do *not* want it- Children *need* the godly and wise counsel of older men and women of God and without that counsel- trouble will soon follow. God knows this is true and that is why the Bible instructs older women to

groom the younger ladies and it tells mature men to mentor the young men. The *true* measurement that we should use to know whether a child has become an adult is not their age- but their ability to carry out and handle adult responsibility. If a person *cannot* act and live responsibly- that person is still a child- no matter how old he is.

So wise parents do not follow the world and allow their children to party hardy and to become polluted by the unregenerate Babylonian world system. They give their children what they *need*- not just what they want because they know that if they acquiesce to the whims of their children and give them what they want- it will destroy them- and they also know that if they give them what they need- it will cause them to become responsible adults.

Now the very same thing that is true in the natural is also true in the Spirit. Godly Pastors and godly Elders and godly Deacons and godly Church Leaders do not give the people of God what they want- they give them what they need. Every sermon; every teaching; every song; every lesson; every program should be carefully and prayerfully designed to provide all of the spiritual elements that will cause every soul to grow up in Christ and become spiritually mature and responsible.

A saint is mature- not based upon his 25 year Sunday School pin- but based upon how submitted he is to the authority of Scripture. If a man is living his life the way he sees fit and is a law unto himself operating in isolation to the Word of God- that person is not mature; he is not strong- he is very, very weak and very, very immature and is a target for false teaching.

Show me someone who does not attend Church regularly; who has no interest for prayer meetings; and who could care less about Bible Study- who does not confess his sin- and I will show you someone who is either not even saved or someone who is deceived.

Church leaders like parents have to stop trying to be friends with their children and start being parents and leaders. Being a Pastor is not about being someone's buddy- it is about helping individuals to confront their sin; it is about preparing that soul to meet God; it is about presenting every man- fully mature in Christ Jesus. And that has never been easy, and it has never been popular. But it is mandatory if we are to be faithful to Jesus Christ and to escape the wrath of God.

You may have noticed that most children don't want to do their homework- they want to watch television or play video games or throw the ball or talk on the phone. But it is biologically impossible for a child to learn science and history and math when their minds are diverted with several distractions.

So good parents; strong parents; parents who care more about the well being of their children than they care about whether their children like them- do not give into the protests from immature children but they do whatever they *have* to do in order to give their children what they need. And this isn't being hard- neither is it being cruel- it is called love- and godly parents have been doing this for over 6,000 years.

And for almost 2,000 years- good pastors and good church leaders did not give in to the protests from immature saints, but they provide the people of God a steady diet of spiritual food that is designed to make them strong- even when they don't *want* it- even when they don't think they *need* it- because if *anyone* doesn't think they need to be strong and mature in the Lord- it only shows how weak and immature they really are.

My dear Christian friends please hear me about this. The last thing that immature and weak people need is entertainment in the House of God. Shallow, easy, carnal and humorous things have a place in our lives- but not in the Church and not with people who need to grow up and get strong; and not in a day when ancient heresies are making such a huge comeback. Now you can rationalize this all you want to- but the fact of the matter is that entertainment is not designed to make anyone strong- it is only designed to tickle the ears.

Weak people need fervent and effectual prayer. I didn't say that- the Apostle James was inspired by the Holy Ghost to say that. Immature people need lots of godly fellowship- again, that is not my idea- God inspired the Apostle Paul to say that. Childish believers need to be fed the milk of the Word- that didn't come from Blair Bradley- that came when the Holy Ghost moved upon the Apostle Peter.

My brothers and sisters in Christ, it is the solemn and sacred duty of the leadership of the Church to *know* the spiritual condition of their people so that they can be sure that they are growing in Grace. This isn't about controlling people- it is about obeying Scripture. God

says that the people of God are to graciously submit to the overseers of the Church and God says that overseers are to faithfully guard the souls of the sheep. God has already told us what we need in order to be strong in the pages of Scripture and it is the duty of Church leadership to faithful to what the Bible says and not follow others about this issue.

Listen, it is not a sign of spiritual maturity that Christian fiction books are now outselling Books on Theology. It is not a sign of our overwhelming growth in the Spirit that we see a ratio of twenty- one of music to preaching in the modern Church and in Christian Book Stores and on Christian Radio. As I have said many times before on these broadcasts- until Prayer meetings and Bible Studies are as popular and as attended as music concerts and comedy acts in the Church- we cannot say that we are in Revival.

When Church leadership gives the people what we think that they need; or we give them what some church growth guru says, or what some popular author has designed instead of giving them what the Bible says that they need- we are, in effect, saying that the Bible is not sufficient for today's Christian. In fact, many modern Church leaders are saying just that.

Some are teaching that instead of holding Bible Study classes or Prayer Meetings in the Church - that what we really need is pottery classes and weight loss seminars and yoga sessions. One fine mega Church in Florida recently abandoned Corporate Prayer Meetings all together because although they have 13,000 members fewer than 100 would show up to pray during the week.

I was recently told that if I really wanted my Church to grow big and become financially prosperous that I must stop trying to impose Biblical morality on people. This nice person told me, "*People today do not want to study the Bible- they don't want to bow down and pray- they want something exciting like a music concert or a Broadway show.*" Another gentleman told me that the modern Church doesn't need Sound, Biblical Doctrine. He says that Doctrine is pretty much useless in 21<sup>st</sup> century America- that what we really need is Love. And another well meaning soul told me that if only I would lower the bar and reduce the definition of what it means to be saved that more people would come.

Now I think that all those people are well meaning and sincere.

I don't think that any of them are *trying* to be wrong. But they *are* wrong and they couldn't be *more* wrong. Listen to the contrast between what these people say and what the Apostle Paul said in **2 Timothy 4:1-8**

**1 I solemnly charge *you* in the presence of God and of Christ Jesus, who is to judge the living and the dead, and by His appearing and His kingdom:**

**2 preach the word; be ready in season *and* out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort, with great patience and instruction.**

**3 For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine; but *wanting* to have their ears tickled, they will accumulate for themselves teachers in accordance to their own desires,**

**4 and will turn away their ears from the truth and will turn aside to myths.**

**5 But you, be sober in all things, endure hardship, do the work of an evangelist, fulfill your ministry.**

**6 For I am already being poured out as a drink offering, and the time of my departure has come.**

**7 I have fought the good fight, I have finished the course, I have kept the faith;**

**8 in the future there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will award to me on that day; and not only to me, but also to all who have loved His appearing.**

Well, I have to stop right here but please join me on the next broadcast as we continue our journey through the Epistle of Jude. May God help us all.

© 2007- 2023 by Enjoying God Ministries, Inc. All rights reserved. Printed in the United States of America  
Enjoying God Ministries, Inc. PO Box 147 Saucier, Mississippi 39574 [www.covenantofpeace.net](http://www.covenantofpeace.net)

Scripture quotations, except those noted otherwise, are from *The New American Standard Bible* © 1995 by The Lockman Foundation. Used by permission.

This is a single transcript in a larger series of teachings taken from a verse- by- verse Journey through the **Epistle of Jude**. You are free to reproduce it and distribute it as the Lord leads you- without cost or reimbursement to us with the stipulation that you may not add anything or take anything away from this transcript without the express written permission of The Covenant of Peace Church and that this complete copyright statement be at the end of all copies.

The Grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with your spirit. Amen. Be watchful and quicken your pace. Soli Deo Gloria. For the Glory of God alone.