

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

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

### Chapter 6- The History of Heresy **Jude 4**

#### 62. The History of Heresy Part 32

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WOSM Thursday 01/31/08

Welcome again my brothers and sisters in Christ. We are continuing our verse by verse study of the Epistle of **Jude** and today I want to continue our examination of The History of Heresy by looking at the fourth verse of Jude- so let's read verse 4 together:

**For certain persons have crept in unnoticed, those who were long beforehand marked out for this condemnation, ungodly persons who turn the grace of our God into licentiousness and deny our only Master and Lord, Jesus Christ.**

Now we are continuing to study about who these "certain persons" that Jude talks about here in verse 4 really were, by studying the seven major groups of heresy and we are continuing to examine the heresy of Pelagianism which attacked the Christian Church late in the fourth century over the Doctrine of Original Sin and the Doctrine of the Total and Complete Depravity of Man.

So let us continue to examine these Doctrines in light of holy Scripture. We have already seen that the Bible clearly teaches that "**in Adam all die**". So we can see that the Adamic nature of sin and rebellion toward God is inbred in all humans since the Fall. The Bible tells us that Adam was created by God. Let's look at **Genesis 1:26-28**:

**26 Then God said, "Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness; and let them rule over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the sky and over the cattle and over all the earth, and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth."**

**27 God created man in His own image, in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them.**

**28 God blessed them; and God said to them, "Be fruitful and multiply, and fill the earth, and subdue it; and rule over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the sky and over every living thing that moves on the earth."**

Now I want us to also look at **Genesis 2:7:**

**Then the LORD God formed man of dust from the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living being.**

It is very clear from reading these passages of inspired Scripture to see that Adam was *made* and was not born. Adam was *created*- not birthed. Adam did not evolve from one celled amebas; the Bible does not teach that Man evolved from chimpanzees or orangutans- although I do think there is evidenced to suggest that some members of the ACLU did indeed evolve from lower primates and perhaps are still related to monkeys and baboons and the like- but the Bible does not teach that.

But the inerrant, infallible God breathed Scripture boldly declares that Man was created in God's own likeness and image in one day by a Sovereign Creator Who is greater and wiser and more powerful than the Man that He formed from the dust of the earth.

Notice also that when God made Man in verse 26- He said, "**Let Us make Man**". The plural use of that pronoun speaks volumes about the Tri-unity of the Godhead which we discussed earlier.

As I have told you before, Adam was created as a fully grown human being. Adam didn't have a childhood; he didn't go through adolescence; he didn't have a past to be forgiven of; but God took a lump of clay and formed man in God's own image and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life and Man became a living soul.

AW Pink, on page 23 of his book, *Our Accountability to God*, said that

"Examining the term more closely, "the image of God" in which Man was made refers to his *moral* character."

And John Calvin talked about this in his, *Institutes of the Christian Religion*, when he defined Man being made in the image of God as Man being 'Spiritual'.

But after the Fall- after Adam willfully rebelled against his own Creator- look at what the Bible says about those who were born *after* Adam. Let's look at **Genesis 5:1-3**:

**1 This is the book of the generations of Adam. In the day when God created man, He made him in the likeness of God.**

**2 He created them male and female, and He blessed them and named them Man in the day when they were created.**

**3 When Adam had lived one hundred and thirty years, he became the father of a son in his own likeness, according to his image, and named him Seth.**

The Bible says that those people who came after Adam were *not* made in God's image- they were made in the image and likeness of Adam and *that* image and *that* likeness was corrupt and fallen and injured from the Fall. The nature that all men are born with since the Fall is a *sinful* nature- it is a nature that is bound toward sin. This fallen nature *loves* to sin. Man creates very ingenious ways to sin, but sin it does and sin it will continue to do.

Modern Sociology teaches that people are sinners only because they sin. But the Bible clearly teaches that the reason the men sin is because they are already sinners in their hearts and nature. Modern Sociology does not accept the foundational Doctrine of Original Sin- but we should.

Now we must understand that the Bible does not teach that all men are as bad as they *could* be. Some people do not sin as easily or as often as others. The Bible allows for some men to refrain and to cut back on their sinning and that some people sin more abundantly than do others. But the Bible does teach that it is Man's *nature* that is corrupt- his internal disposition; his DNA makeup; that is corrupt and fallen and totally depraved and just how that nature is manifested may well differ from person to person- but all men have the corrupt and fallen nature that they inherited from Adam- and thus all men are totally and completely lost at the very moment of conception.

We don't have to do anything to special to earn the damnation of our soul. Our soul is already condemned and already lost and already depraved and already separated from God at conception by virtue of Original Sin.

So theoretically- if you took a child at birth and placed him in a

plastic bubble and pushed the food under the door and never let him out and never let him read anything or see anything or meet anybody or have any contact with anyone at all. If you never let him drink or smoke or curse or laugh or cry or read nasty books or look at television. If you never allowed that child to hear another voice or see another person- and that child grew old and died- theoretically, that child would die and go to hell by virtue of his own inherent Lostness based upon Original Sin.

Original Sin teaches that you don't have to do anything to be lost- that all men are already lost. You do not have to sin in order to be condemned by God- you are already condemned by God at birth. Original Sin teaches that if we do nothing- we are already condemned by God by virtue of our sinful nature and the Original Sin of Adam.

Now the Truth about Original Sin may seem to be harsh- but it really isn't. Original Sin is simply very accurate in its portrayal of the hopeless condition of lost man. The only reason that anything that is clearly taught in Scripture would seem to be harsh is because we *really* don't believe that Sin is as bad as God says that it is and we *really* don't believe that God is as serious about punishing sin as the Bible says that He is and we *really* don't believe that God opposes sin and is offended at sin to the degree that the Bible says that He is and we *really* don't believe that we are really that bad and we sure don't believe that God would ever send us to hell.

But why do we believe things that are clearly the opposite of what Scripture teaches? Precisely because we are fallen! And in our fallen state- we believe a lie much easier than we believe truth. If you doubt what I am saying- just look at your own children. Who taught your children to rebel against you? Does anyone have to teach them to disobey you, or do they already know how to rebel by nature? So if your children or my children are going to behave at all- they must be taught to behave and that teaching must be accompanied with discipline or it will never work. But why is that? Because all men are born with the very same rebellious nature of Adam and they are sinful and lost by birth and to do nothing with them is to doom them to stay lost.

So in spite of its great popularity, Pelagianism is based upon a faulty and UnScriptural view of Sin and a faulty and UnScriptural view of God and a faulty and UnScriptural view of Man that the Bible

does not teach. God made Adam in His image and today we have made a god in our own image that fits to *our own* morality and that does what is right in *our own* eyes and that moves in the manner that *we* enjoy and that doesn't do anything that would cause *us* displeasure at all.

And my dear Christian brothers and sisters- a god like that simply doesn't exist and is a figment of our own imagination. But the God of the Bible is Who we ought to get to know and the God of the Bible is the One that we ought to serve and the God of the Bible says that all men are lost and that all men are fallen and that all men are depraved and that all men are completely and utterly separated from Him by virtue of the sinful nature and that all men need a Savior and that unless and until they are saved- they are damned; until they are found they are lost. Until they can see they are blind; until they repent they are living in their own arrogance and their own pride and until they bow their knees and submit to the authority of Scripture- they are yet in their sins.

Original Sin is hated like no other Doctrine because it brings Man to a place of utter helplessness before God. Fallen Man thinks that he is in charge. Fallen Man loves to believe that he can decide and that he can choose to serve God or not. Fallen Man thinks that he can debate and argue and rationalize with God- but the biggest mistake that anyone can make is to assume that God is like us. He is not like us. God is wiser than we are; He is stronger than we are; He is more powerful than we are. He is the Creator and we are the created. He is the Master and we are the slave. He is above and we are below. He is right and we are wrong. He is perfect and we are imperfect. He is glorious and mighty and majestic and faithful and holy and righteous and good and merciful and kind and loving and we are evil and wicked and foolish and fallen and rebellious and weak and depraved.

Even though Adam was created in the image of God and had high moral excellence- he was not Omni Present- he was still a created being. Adam was not omniscient- he didn't know everything. Adam was not Omnipotent, and he did not possess absolute power; he had no invincibility with which he could repel deception by his own nature.

Because Adam was a created being- he was created by the

Creator- Adam was *able* to fall- so he did fall. Adam was both blessed and cursed by having his own mutability. You see, changeableness is the very law or radical characteristic of the creature that distinguishes it from the Creator. All of creation is in a constant state of change. People get older; their features change; their likes and their dislikes all change. The earth itself changes constantly. New mountains are raised up from the earth and old mountains erupt and collapse. Nations rise and fall. Governments rise and fall. Everything that God made is constantly changing. But God never changes. God is immutable- He is always the same. **Malachi 3:6** says:

**For I, the LORD, do not change...**

**Hebrews 13:8** says:

**Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever.**

And also, in **James 1:17**

**Every good thing given and every perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shifting shadow.**

Only God has no variation. Only God stays the same. Only God is immutable. Only God is unchanging. Because God is Who the Bible declares Him to be- He *cannot* be tempted with evil and *cannot* be induced to sin.

God *cannot* sin and therefore He *does not* sin; He has *never* sinned; and He *never will* sin. Adam *could* sin and because he *could*- he *did*. And when Adam sinned- the entire human race sinned with him- because Adam was the father of us all.

The Fall of Man left us in the situation where we could not fix our problem; we could not reinstate ourselves into God's Favor; we cannot earn our own righteousness; we cannot pass through the Judgment of God. The Fall left us in need of a Savior and it leaves you and I with the overwhelming need to earnestly contend for the Faith that was once and for all delivered to the saints. Well, I'm out of time for today- but please join me on the next broadcast as we

continue our Journey through the Epistle of **Jude**. May God help us all.

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