

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

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

### Chapter 7- The Profile of the Heretics **Jude 5-7**

### 90. The Profile of the Heretics Part 6

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WOSM Tuesday 03/11/08

Welcome again my beloved in Jesus Christ. We are continuing our verse by verse “Journey” through the Epistle of **Jude** and today I want to continue to examine what Jude taught about “The Profile of the Heretics”. So, let’s read verses 5-7 of Jude again together:

**5 Now I desire to remind you, though you know all things once for all, that the Lord, after saving a people out of the land of Egypt, subsequently destroyed those who did not believe.**

**6 And angels who did not keep their own domain, but abandoned their proper abode, He has kept in eternal bonds under darkness for the judgment of the great day,**

**7 just as Sodom and Gomorrah and the cities around them, since they in the same way as these indulged in gross immorality and went after strange flesh, are exhibited as an example in undergoing the punishment of eternal fire.**

Now on the previous broadcasts, we saw how that Jude describes these certain men who crept into the Church to deceive and destroy the sheep with three Old Testament groups:

- Apostate Israel
- Apostate Angels
- The perverted people of Sodom and Gomorrah

And today- we come to verse 8 and I want to look at that verse together. **Jude 8** says:

**Yet in the same way these men, also by dreaming, defile the flesh, and reject authority, and revile angelic majesties.**

Now by Jude using the phrase, “**Yet in the same way**” here- he was linking the heretics to those three Old Testament groups. And we also saw last time that Jude describes these heretics as being men who “**defile the flesh, and reject authority, and revile angelic majesties.**” And that they do all this wickedness “**by dreaming.**”

And we already discussed how that these people use their dreams to determine their doctrine- all to their own condemnation and the condemnation of those who hear and follow them.

Now I want to look at how Jude continues to give us a detailed profile of the heretics by giving three more descriptive terms. In the second half of verse 8, Jude says that these heretics:

- Defile the flesh
- Reject Authority
- Revile Angelic Majesties

So, these people attack the Church with false Doctrine and false teaching and go after the souls of men. They hunt down weak and shallow people to deceive them. And they use partial truth and partial understanding; faulty reasoning; and inaccurate interpretations to do what the Bible says, “**deceive the hearts of the simple**”(Romans 16:18).

Now over the years, there has been some very interesting characteristics about the heretics that are alike. So even though they live in different times and in different cultures and even in different nations and continents- they have certain characteristics that are the same.

And one of these common characteristics that Jude talks about here in verse 8 that is the same among them all is that heretics “**defile the flesh.**” Now this term has a sexual component to it and indicates that those who preach and teach false doctrine are also very loose morally and also very easy to prey upon unsuspecting followers in a perverted and sexual manner.

History is filled with testimonies of adultery and sexual immorality and sexual sins abounding among the ancient heretics and this same immorality describes the modern heretics today. Because their doctrines are, in fact, doctrines of devils, these apostates give themselves over to lasciviousness and all manner of perversion including homosexuality and the horrible abuse of children.

It is historically accurate to say that where you see great displays of rampant sexual immorality among religious people- you can rest assured that their doctrine is way off base. The Holy Spirit inspired Jude to say here that false doctrine promoted and taught by false teachers is linked with sexual immorality.

This nation recently witnessed one of the most horrible displays of sexual immorality in history brought to light recently among Roman Catholic priests, who were homosexuals- who abused thousands of little boys over several decades. This display of sexual immorality and of defiling the flesh was not an isolated event but was wide spread and was ongoing and was brought forth in part by the Unscriptural and ungodly teachings of that religious organization that are in direct violation to the Biblical requirements for leadership.

Jude then said that these heretics “**reject authority**”. Now this term comes from two Greek words, *atheteo*, which refers to destroying or tearing down an existing authority and the word, *kuriotes*- which means, “lord”, with a little “I”.

So Jude is telling us that heretics and false teachers are a law unto themselves. They are self-appointed and are accountable to no one- doing what is right in their own eyes and justifying it by their supposed spirituality.

And if anything typifies the modern Church- it is this issue. We have an epidemic today of self- anointed; self- proclaimed so-called “prophets” and teachers who answer to no one and who are accountable to no one- going around from church to church throwing out false prophecies and so-called words of wisdom and knowledge like they were candy at a parade. These troublemakers come into a church to “straighten out the Church” or to try to get the pastor to “let God move in his church”. Then after sowing seeds of turmoil and strife and confusion that destroy the Church- they move on to the next city and their next victims.

Beloved, God doesn’t move like that. And scores of weak and ill prepared pastors naively give these people their pulpit and sit and watch these heretics come in and destroy their church.

Beloved, God does not anoint you to teach anyone anything unless you yourself are being taught by someone else. God does not call you to teach unless you are learning. You do not have God’s blessings to get up and proclaim anything unless and until you understand what it is to sit down and listen. God does not call you to lead unless you are willing

to humble yourself and follow. God doesn't fill your one mouth until he fills both of your ears. God does not give you a word to teach until you know what it is to live under and walk in the Truth.

Dear friends- Ministry is not about people getting up and speaking words because they are catchy or clever or cool or because they just read them five minutes ago. True Ministry; genuine ministry is about God calling a man to minister who can be humbled and humiliated and tried and seasoned and proven and tested and who goes through the fires of discouragement and disappointments and troubles and one who lives the life at home before his own wife and children and who puts into practice that which he desires to teach.

If you don't have the time or the inclination or the courage or the ability or the need to let God develop you in His time; through His methods; on His schedule- then sit down and be quiet- God is not speaking anything of value through your mouth.

One of the hallmarks of the Protestant Reformation was the concept that the hierarchical priesthood- as fabricated by the Roman Church- was a sham and that the Bible taught that every man was a priest unto God.

And that concept is just as right as rain- but what is not right is the way that we have taken that precious Biblical truth that every man is a priest unto God and used it to justify an ill prepared and self- appointed and unaccountable ministry that thinks that it has license to do and say and teach and believe and proclaim whatever the dog drags in through the front door. That is *not* what the Reformers taught and that is not being faithful to the biblical concept of every man being a priest unto God.

The Protestant Reformation rediscovered a glorious liberty that the Bible proclaims that we have in Christ. But that liberty is only as good as our responsible accountability. We have an obligation and a requirement and a solemn duty to make sure that what we teach and what we preach is Biblical-not just popular- and that when we think or suppose or imagine that God is leading us; or speaking to us; or directing us; we are to seek counsel with other godly people and we are to verify that "word" with Scripture and we are to make doubly sure that we are right; and that our motives are right; and that our thrust is right before we would dare sign God's Name to what we are saying or what we are doing.

To throw around statements like, “*God told me*” or “*God showed me*” so flippantly is a reproach to the cause of Christ and the Gospel. God has already spoken so much that we have recorded in Holy Scripture that it would be hard to imagine what else He had to say pertaining to life and godliness.

The Bible says that everything that we need for life and godliness is already in the Scriptures- so true Ministry; godly ministry; God anointed and God sent ministry will spend time teaching me and you what God said; what the Scriptures teach; what the Holy Spirit inspired holy men to pen down- not the latest and greatest revelation from someone who is unaccountable and who rejects authority.

We are free in Christ- thank God that is true. But that freedom is not a license to do whatever we please and then say that we have that right because of the Holy Spirit.

The Spirit illuminates the Word to us. The Spirit empowers us to obey and live what the Word says. The Spirit enables us to do God’s Will on this earth. And the Spirit gives us unbelievable and incredible freedom and liberty so that God may be glorified. But the Spirit never ever condones sin and the Spirit will never tell me to do anything that is contrary to God’s Word and the Spirit will never lead me into something that isn’t true.

And the glorious liberty of the Spirit that allows us to flow in God’s Goodness and Mercy and Love is not a license to do whatever I desire to do; or to interpret the Bible any way that suites my fancy; or to say whatever I think needs to be said and then sign God’s Name to it.

Jude says that heretics rebel against authority. Jude said that the bad guys do not submit themselves to God ordained authority within the Church of Jesus Christ and run off and do what is right in their own eyes. Jude says that apostates “**reject authority.**” So let’s not be guilty of doing what the heretics do.

The third profile of the heretics that Jude talks about in verse 8 is that these ungodly people who bring in damnable heresies into the Church will “revile angelic majesties”. And this term is used in two ways. First of all, the self ruled heretics do not want anyone to have authority over them and will speak against anyone who tries. These ungodly people will never submit themselves to any rule of order or conduct. But another way that we must see this verse is an even more serious wickedness than heretics not wanting to submit to godly

authority. And in order to get a better view of this, I want to combine the last part of verse 8 with verse 9.

**8 Yet in the same way these men, also by dreaming, defile the flesh, and reject authority, and revile angelic majesties.**

**9 But Michael the archangel, when he disputed with the devil and argued about the body of Moses, did not dare pronounce against him a railing judgment, but said, "the Lord rebuke you!"**

Jude is saying that the heretics actually speak evil of celestial beings. They rail out against angels- whether they are fallen angels or not and then Jude goes right into a real life example in verse 9 of what happened with Michael the arch angel and the devil in their dispute over the body of Moses.

Now this particular portion of Jude gets into very serious and important aspects, and I want to treat this part fairly but I'm out of time for today- so 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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