

Jude 18 - What is *Natural Knowing?*

Dr. Leon L. Sanders

Jude 17-19

Prologue - Characteristics of Sinners: Grumblers, Malcontents & Lusts

- ▶ All Sinners are led by their Lusts as they cannot Control the Flesh: Sin Nature rebels against ALL authorities but enslaved by Sin-Satan (Ro 8:5-8; Ja 1:14-15; 1Jo 2:15-16)
 - ▶ Satan-World System-Flesh build a worldview without God; except God does exist, He *gives them up* to futility until coming Judgment (Ep 4:17-24)
 - ▶ Asebeia {Ungodly} Triad cannot annul God; therefore, they ignore God via logical fallacies: False Dilemmas, *Ad Hominems*, etc. violating the Laws of Logic: Identity; Excluded Middle; Non-Contradiction; & Inference: Nihilism and Incoherence
- ▶ Sinners *hate* Christ and this produces common characteristics
 - ▶ Grumblers - Gossipers, backbiters, etc.; acid on metal to weaken and twist it to their own vision: Critical Theory-Race Theory: Wokeness {Balaam}
 - ▶ Malcontents - Never satisfied {Covetousness} Rebels, always wanting what God has not given {Adam; Cain; Meribah; Korah} (Col 3:5; 1Ti 2:14)

Prologue - Characteristics of Sinners: Boasters Showing Favoritism

- ▶ While Boasters recalls loud, empty braggarts, these also include politicians, pastors, others vying for leadership or simply the person who *always* claims to have a better alternative (in their own minds): Causes Divisions!
 - ▶ Absalom, quietly at first, boasted that if he were king he could do better; he swayed enough malcontents to back his rebellion against his father (2Sa 15:1-12)
 - ▶ Rehoboam, Solomon's son, more brash, did not gain the backing of tribal leaders rebelling against their own choice: Rebellion, as God said (1Sa 8:9-20; 1Ki 11:9-13; 12:1-17)
- ▶ Favoritism cultivates other's malcontentness, their lust-desire, to support the False Teacher's agenda; ultimately, they receive far less (Ge 3:1-8; Re 20:11-15)
 - ▶ Satan appealed to Adam's malcontentness; he passed to Cain: Government (1Ti 2:14)
 - ▶ Immature have not developed discernment to understand evil; they accept their evil and reject God's good: Do not be this Christian! Study to be approved (1Co 3; 2Ti 2:15-16; He 5:11-14)

Jude's Conclusion: Appeal to Authority

- ▶ Jude begins his closure and builds to his conclusion by appealing to authority
 - ▶ There is no original knowledge; it *only appears* original when its spiritual roots are hidden from observer or participant (Ec 1:9-11; Ro 1:18-28)
- ▶ Ultimately ALL knowledge flows from God - El Deah {אֱלֹהֵי דַעוּת} (1Sa 2:3; Ro 11:33-36; He 1:1)
 - ▶ God's, Christ's, knowledge is pure, uplifting: Wisdom (Pr 2; 3:6-12; 3:19-26; 8:1-11, 32-36)
 - ▶ Sin deforms God's knowledge furthering sin: Foolishness (Pr 3:31-35; 10:1-2; 15:5; 22:15)
- ▶ Ultimately, ALL beings *appeal to authority*, Truth, authenticating knowing
 - ▶ Appealing to God, Wisdom, brings salvation; life (Job 33:1-14, 19-28)
 - ▶ Appealing to any other relies on Logic Fallacy: *Appeal to...Sin* (Ge 3:1-8; 1Ti 2:11)
- ▶ Jude appeals to Apostles; not to inspiration; we appeal to the Bible (Jn 16:1-15; 1Co 13:12; 2Ti 3:16-17; He 1:2)

Apostles' Godly Wisdom: Scoffers are Ungodly

- ▶ False Teachers subset of Sinners; hence, ungodly {Asebeia} (Ro 1:18)
 - ▶ Essence of ALL Sinners is Pride, raising oneself above God: Rebellion (Pr 16:18; Is 14:12-15; Ez 28:11-18)
 - ▶ ALL Sinners demonstrate a continuum of Scoffing { γλῖ; lūš or ἔμπαίκτης empaiktēs} (Pr 21:24)
 - ▶ Scoffers {Mockers, Scorners} *hate* reproof, humility; especially the Gospel (Pr 9:7-12)
- ▶ Peter, Apostle, gives characteristics of Scoffers (2Pe 3:3-13)
 - ▶ Knowing their time, last days, is also short they build Satan's kingdom (Re 12:7-12)
 - ▶ Question veracity of Jesus' promise of returning Satan's pattern; basis of Evolution (Ge 3:5)
 - ▶ They reject God's knowledge and its source: Bible-Christ (Ro 1:18-28)
 - ▶ Their *hope* is in a Creation that is passing away; not a new Creation (He 1:8-12; 11:13-16)

Truth of Sinners: Led by the Natural or Lusts

- ▶ Man created from the essence of this creation: Flesh (Ge 2:7; 1Co 1:29; 15:47)
- ▶ ALL people-sinners are devoid of the Spirit and are *Natural* {ψυχικός, psychikos} (Ge 2:17; 3:1-7; Ps 51:5)
 - ▶ They are driven by their desires, lusts, which can only be controlled by the Spirit which they lack; his *natural* is also labeled as the Flesh {σάρξ, sarx} (Ga 5:16-21)
 - ▶ *Natural* is not godly but anti-God or anti-Christ (Is 55:8-9; 1Jo 2:18-22; 4:1-3; 2Jo 7)
 - ▶ *Natural* ways are right in one's eyes; God reveals their deceit (Pr 21:2)
 - ▶ Natural rejects God's ways calling Him *unjust* and a liar (Ez 18:25-30a; Ro 3:1-4; Re 20:11-15)
- ▶ Man's Flesh or *Natural*, cannot be redeemed; given new body (1Co 15:42-49)
 - ▶ Lost always seek to make their home here which is passing away (Mt 7:24-27)
 - ▶ Their lusts rage against God like the seas; this is their *natural* (1Co 7:29-31; 1Jo 2:15-17)

False Teachers: Divide and Conquer

- ▶ Sin *always* divides to conquer; this is the *natural way*
 - ▶ Adam and Eve, one flesh, were divided by sin (Ge 2:23-25; 3:1-16)
 - ▶ At Babel God introduced differences; sinful man divided himself (Ge 11:1-9)
 - ▶ False Teachers work in churches to divide them (1Co 3:1-11)
 - ▶ When Satan unifies, he is dividing apart from Christ; hence, Antichrist (Re 13; 19:11-21)
 - ▶ Satan divided angels who were with the Father, appealing to their lusts
- ▶ Sinners who enter the church, body of Christ, are an infection seeking to destroy the *local* body and Christ's message
 - ▶ They will be known by their fruits: Division; Denying Christ and Worldly philosophy
 - ▶ This the False Teacher's *natural* inclination; it is what they do: ALWAYS

False Teachers: Battleground is Knowing and Context

- ▶ Original Sin taken for granted but defines Satan's War: Knowing and Context
- ▶ Lost's knowing is forced into an anti-Christ context: Eternal Death (Ro 1:18-28)
 - ▶ This knowing results in Degradation and Violence deepening one's enslavement to Satan-World-Flesh-Natural Instincts {Animalistic} (Ps 73:21-22)
- ▶ God's knowing *fits* a pro-Christ context; it is peaceable, pure, reasonable seeking to bring peace to those without peace (Ja 3:13-18)
- ▶ Goal of False Teachers: *make* world's knowing *appear* reasonable
 - ▶ The fool, simple, who do not grow in the Bible and prayer are swayed into error
 - ▶ False Teachers appeal to False Authorities-Majorities and *Natural* Common Senses
- ▶ Mature Christians led by Spirit *rest* in God's *foolishness* choosing Life over Death; therefore, our boasting is in Christ over *Natural* sinful Self (1Co 1:18-31)

Anti-Christ Context:
Incoherent-Unreasonable

1. *Nature* designed body
2. Chance designed world

Pro-Christ Context:
Coherent-Reasonable

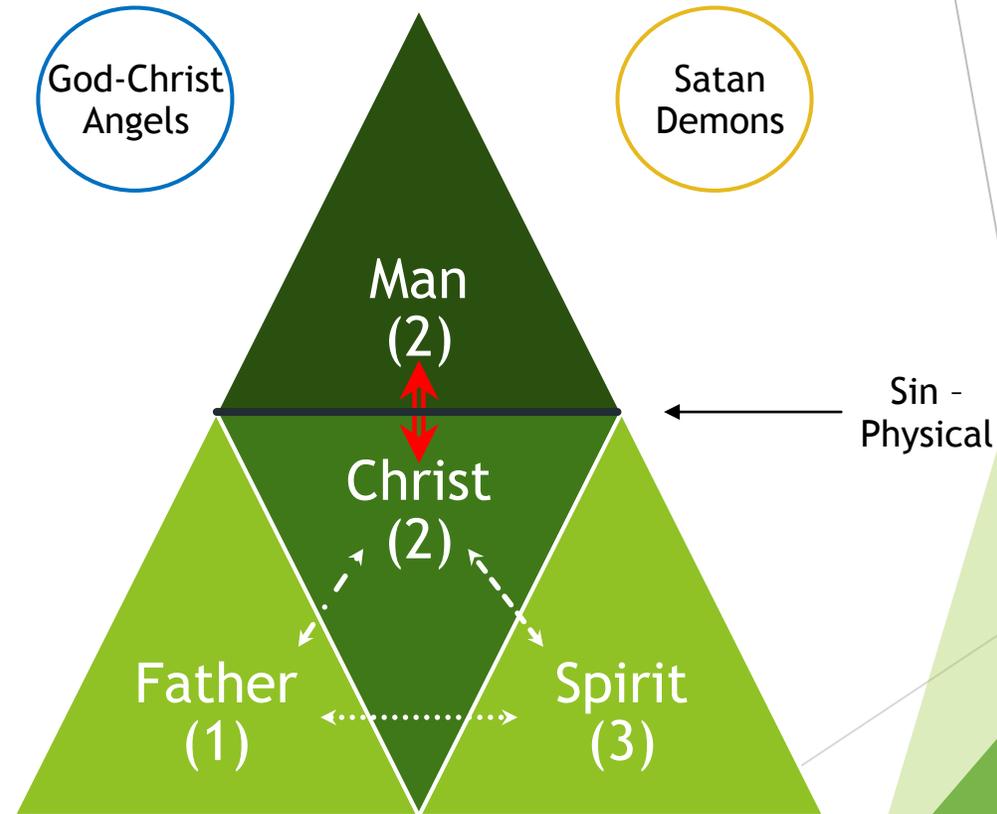
1. God designed body
2. God designed world

False Teachers (and Sinners): Who is Their Prey?

- ▶ Whom do the False Teachers specifically, and sinners in general, target for their insidious *divide and conquer* strategy appealing to *natural* knowledge?
- ▶ *Two-souled* {δίψυχος, dipsychos} person is their prey, unstable in God's wisdom-context {ψυχικός root of ψυχο-source of self} (Ja 1:5-8, 12-15)
 - ▶ Lost person is single-souled, *natural*, cannot ever please God: anti-Christ Context
 - ▶ Saved is two-souled, *new creation*, in Christ but retains Flesh which wars against *new nature*: Vacillates between Godly & Ungodly Contexts (1Co 13:12; 2Co 5:17; Ga 2:20; 5:16-17)
 - ▶ Maturing learns to let Spirit Control *Natural* Flesh: Hagiazo Process (Ro 7:7-8:7; He 5:11-14)
 - ▶ Immature tries to Control self and fails; grieves-quenches the Spirit (Ep 4:30; 1Th 5:19)
 - ▶ These are the Christians Satan-False Teachers seek to introduce divisions and open doors for Lost to infiltrate and destroy churches (1Pe 5:6-10; Re 2-3)
 - ▶ Only by submitting to Spirit can Christians, as Christ did, resist Flesh-World-Satan; remembering they can and do still sin (Ja 4:8-10; 1Pe 2:21-25; 1Jo 1:6-10)

Epilogue - Sin: Separating You from Everything to War

- ▶ Christ Creator of ALL; i.e., Heaven
(Jn 1:3; Col 1:16)
- ▶ Man and this Creation built by Christ on Father (He 11:3)
- ▶ Man rejected God choosing to build on *his* knowledge (Ge 3:1-8; Ro 8:19-22; 1Ti 2:14)
- ▶ Man's knowledge divides and wars against differences (Ja 4:1-4)
 - ▶ Example: Gnosticism appeals to *higher spiritual knowing* bypassing Christ; Man aspiring to be spirit {Evolution}
- ▶ Evil does not come from God; comes from sinners rejecting God using law to Control the Flesh's lusts: Fails



Epilogue - Christ: Unifying Believers to Himself

- ▶ Jude warning conclusion about False Teachers
 - ▶ Their Mission: Destroy Christ's body
 - ▶ Our Mission: Faithfulness to His body and His Gospel (He 3:6-15)
- ▶ We are to wait faithfully for His coming; do not be lured into sensational lies ... (Mt 24:23-27)
 - ▶ They *promise* freedom, illogical fallacy, but give slavery (Ro 6:15-19)
 - ▶ Christ gives freedom from sin by us submitting ourselves in humility to Him: No third option (Mt 11:28-30;) {Law of Excluded Middle}

