

# False Teachers

## Introduction

### **1. The epistle of Jude is a “call to arms” – called to defend the Gospel of Jesus Christ**

Jude 3 Beloved, while I was very diligent to write to you concerning our common salvation, I found it necessary to write to you exhorting you to contend earnestly for the faith which was once for all delivered to the saints.

### **2. The truth and defense of it, has been left in our care.**

### **3. Over the course of time, false teachers had slipped into the congregation where Jude sends this letter.**

**A. False teachers were passing themselves off as faithful Christians — but they were really only pretenders.**

**B. They were working to undermine the very faith they proclaimed.**

Jude 4 For certain men have crept in unnoticed, who long ago were marked out for this condemnation, ungodly men, who turn the grace of our God into lewdness and deny the only Lord God and our Lord Jesus Christ.

## **Elders and Men Need to Be Alert!**

- 1. The fact that these men “crept in unnoticed” is a reminder that guardians of the flock shoulder a serious responsibility.**
  - A. Jude implied that if the elders had been alert they could have stopped the damage.**
  - B. Elders must remain “alert!”**  
**Titus 1:9-11**
  - C. Paul’s words of caution to the Elders of the church at Ephesus.**  
**Acts 20:28-32**
- 2. An important part of shepherding the flock is protecting it from predators.**
  - A. This is why doctrinal interviews are important...**
    - 1) Preachers...**
    - 2) Teachers...**
  - B. Elders need to get acquainted with all new members.**
    - 1) This is important to the protecting of the flock, as there are wolves in sheep clothing out there.**
    - 2) Most new members will appreciate the elders trying to get to know them.**

- 3. Those who know that their teachings are objectionable to the elders are not always forthright about their beliefs.**
  - A. As a result, they may operate underhandedly to advance their position.**
  - B. False teachers perceive themselves to be more knowledgeable — and “seek to enlighten” others.**
    - 1) They will do this through deception.**

## **A Need for Vigilance**

- 1. A Warning from Jesus.**
  - A. The Bible is filled with warnings about the battle that must be fought with false teachers**

Matthew 7:15 Beware of false prophets, who come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly they are ravenous wolves.

- 1) “Ravenous” is an adjective meaning fierce or savage.**
- B. Jesus used this modifier to describe the nature of false teachers.**
- C. They have an enchanting demeanor, and with their smooth words they can catch the unsuspecting off guard, or coerce the biblically challenged into error.**

**2. A Warning from Paul.****1 Timothy 4:1-2****A. Doctrines of demons.****B. Speak lies.****2 Timothy 4:1-4**

- 1) They will not endure sound doctrine.
- 2) They will turn their ears from the truth.

**An Inside Job****1. The most disturbing things about false teachers is that they do their damage from the inside.****A. This is why we have this warning:****2 Corinthians 11:13-15**

- 1) This is why we need to “test” and “search.”

1 John 4:1 Beloved, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits, whether they are of God; because many false prophets have gone out into the world.

Acts 17:11 These were more fair-minded than those in Thessalonica, in that they received the word with all readiness, and searched the Scriptures daily to find out whether these things were so.

- 2) Diligent study is needed to discern the truth, especially because false teachers are proficient at using Scripture deceptively.

Galatians 1:6-7 I marvel that you are turning away so soon from Him who called you in the grace of Christ, to a different gospel, which is not another; but there are **some who trouble you and want to pervert the gospel of Christ.**

2 Corinthians 2:17 For **we are not, as so many, peddling the word of God;** but as of sincerity, but as from God, we speak in the sight of God in Christ.

2 Peter 3:16 as also in all his epistles, speaking in them of these things, in which are some things hard to understand, which **untaught and unstable people twist to their own destruction, as they do also the rest of the Scriptures.**

**B. This is why the apostle Paul urged for everyone to .....**

1 Thessalonians 5:21 **Test all things;** hold fast what is good.

## **The Future of the Ungodly**

**1. There are many predictions in the scripture of what will ultimately happen to the false teacher.**

**2 Peter 3:3-7**

Matthew 24:37-39 But as the days of Noah were, so also will the coming of the Son of Man be. For as in the days before the flood, they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day that Noah entered the ark, and did not know until the flood came **and took them all away, so also will the coming of the Son of Man be.**

**2. Jude describes these false teachers as “ungodly.”**

**A. Ungodly because they did not show the proper respect for the word of God.**

**B. A false teacher cannot be a godly man.**

## Twisting Grace

1. **Jude warned that these impostors were turning the grace of God into "lewdness."**
  - A. **Paul listed "lewdness" as one of the works of the flesh that would keep one out of heaven (Galatians 5:19).**
    - 1) **These men were twisting God's word, making them appear to encourage unholy behavior among believers.**
  - C. **They were blurring the lines between liberty and license.**
2. **Many today are making obedience seem to appear irrelevant because of "the grace of God" — BUT.....**

Romans 2:6 who "WILL RENDER TO EACH ONE ACCORDING TO HIS DEEDS":

2 Corinthians 5:10 For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, that each one may receive the things done in the body, according to what he has done, whether good or bad.

3. **Although no one can ever do enough to earn salvation — obedience is still required.**

## Denying Jesus

1. **Jude charged these false teachers with “denying our only Master and Lord, Jesus Christ.”**
  - A. **People can deny Christ by their works or by their way of life**
  - B. **Many claim to know Jesus but their doctrines contradict their assertions.**

Titus 1:16 They profess to know God, **but in works they deny Him**, being abominable, disobedient, and disqualified for every good work.

2. **There is an inseparable link between the way a man thinks and the way he acts.**
  - A. **Behavior can always be traced back to the way he thinks.**  
**Matthew 15:16-20**
3. **A person can claim that he loves Jesus, claim that He is priority #1 in his life, but if his doctrine and actions do not match up with this, then he is a liar or at least deceived.**

Matthew 7:21 "Not everyone who says to Me, 'Lord, Lord,' shall enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who **does the will** of My Father in heaven.

Luke 6:46 "But why do you call Me 'Lord, Lord,' and **not do the things which I say?**

## **Conclusion**

- 1. Spiritual dissidents are always looking for opportunities to infiltrate peaceful congregations and sow seeds of discord.**
- 2. Leaders in the church must be vigilant in safeguarding the flock against troublemakers.**
- 3. Those who belittle obedience in the name of grace are false teachers.**
- 4. Grace does not nullify the commandments of God.**
- 5. Always remember that the Grace of God is His part of salvation, and obedience is man's part.**



