

Earnestly Contend for the Faith

A Call to Arms

Jude 3-4

1. **What Jude Wanted to Do: write about common salvation** (v.3a)
Everyone who believes in Jesus Christ receives the same benefits, now and in the future, of salvation. There is no hierarchy privilege for different groups or individuals in relation to salvation (John 10:16; Acts 10:47; Gal. 3:28; Col. 3:11). Salvation is experienced only in accordance with the Word of God, and it is in this reality that believers have unity (John 17:17-21) which is based upon a common experience and identity with Christ (Col. 2:13-14).
2. **What You Must Do: contend earnestly for the faith** (v.3b)
Jude was concerned for the preservation of the faith that he wished to celebrate. Believers must be continuously vigilant in striving to maintain the pure message of the gospel. A contender for the faith...
 - A. **... is Not Concerned with Exalting Any Personality** (1 Cor 3; cf. Luke 9:49-50)
Christians must not be antagonistic towards one another simply because of a differing sub-group affiliation (1 Cor. 1:12-13; 3:4-9; cf. Luke 9:49-50). We must be able to differentiate between co-laborers with whom we disagree and those preaching another gospel (Gal. 1:6-9; cf. Luke 11:23).
 - B. **... is Not Concerned with Defending “Me” Personally** (Phil 1:15-18)
A Christian must be careful to defend against slander if the gospel is at stake (2 Cor 11:1ff). However, a Christian must never confuse someone who may be acting with selfish ambition while preaching the true gospel (Phil. 1:15-18; cf. John 3:30) with someone preaching a false gospel (Gal 1:6-9).
 - C. **... is Modeled by Jesus Christ**
Jesus consistently contended for the truth in His interaction with all of His religious opponents (Matt. 22:23-33; Mark 7:9-13; 12:28-34; Lue 16:14-18).
 - D. **... is Characterized by Defending the Content of the Faith**
The message of the gospel and the content of the apostles teachings has been proclaimed (1 Pet. 3:18; cf. Heb. 9:26-28) and handed down (cf. 1 Cor. 11:23; 15:2), and it cannot be improved upon.
 - I. **Not Deterred by Personal Attachments** (2 Pet. 2:1-3; cf. 1 Cor 5:5, 9-11)
A contender must continually prioritize fellowship based on the truth with others who believe the truth over every other basis of a relationship (Matt. 10:37). A contender must be willing to endure discord because of the truth for the sake of the truth.

- II. **Not Deterred by Popular Acceptance** (2 Tim 2:17; 2 Pet 2:2, cf. Rev. 2-3)
The history of Israel and of the church indicates that popular opinion will be to compromise the truth. A contender must not have a desire for isolation (Heb. 10:25), but he must also be continually willing to stand alone against what has wide approval.

- III. **Not Deterred by Positional Authority** (Gal. 2:9-14)
No one is above making a blunder in statement or conduct which then casts a shadow upon the gospel itself. The hope and goal in confrontation is to defend the truth as well as for the repentance and reconciliation of the erring party.

3. Why You Must Do It (v.4)

A. Who they are: Certain Persons.

Jude does not point out any individuals specifically because he will identify them by their activity instead of their name. However, it must be remembered that sometimes false teachers can, and in many cases should, be named (1 Tim. 1:19; 2 Tim. 2:17).

B. Where they are: Among You.

There were already people inside of the fellowship who were teaching dangerous heresies (2 Pet 2:1; cf. 2 Tim 2:18; 1 John 1:19).

C. What they do: Deny Christ by Licentious Conduct

Some of the ways in which false teachers can be identified is their capitulation to greed or sensuality. They are characterized by those very things that the New Testament describes as being evidence of someone who is not a believer (Rom 13:13; Gal 5:19; Eph. 4:19; 1 Pet. 4:3; 2 Pet. 2:2, 7, 18).