

Jude

By Chantel Bink



Jude is a short book with a purpose: to warn Christians not to succumb to the beliefs of false teachers. He reminds the Church that even God's chosen people and the angels fell into this temptation and were punished (vs. 5-6). According to Jude, these teachers say that because of God's grace and the sacrifice of Jesus, sin is fine because it is already forgiven (vs. 4). They defile their bodies, reject spiritual leadership, and slander those in heaven (vs. 8). We are told, "These men are grumblers and faultfinders; they follow their own evil desires; they boast about themselves and

flatter others for their own advantage" (vs. 16); their focus is on their own advancement and not on the Lord's teachings. These people, Jude says, cause division among God's Church (vs. 19).

What does this have to do with us? Everything. Think about the world we live in today and all of the worldly beliefs that have slowly seeped into acceptance in many Christian minds. How many times have you heard people say they believe something is okay, even if the Bible in no way and at no point says this? How many times have you caught yourself falling into the same trap? How easy is it to say, "Well, that makes (earthly) sense?" We have to be careful of worldly teaching from those who really only seek personal gain. It is a beautiful idea that everyone on earth will go to heaven and that a good God would never allow good people to go to hell, it is also a nice thought that we can sin all we want and Jesus's sacrifice will cover it for us. Sure, I can hate that guy because Jesus understands and He's got my back! That woman made me really mad so it's okay if I refuse her God's love because Jesus has me covered. Nope. It doesn't work that way. God calls us to be different. Jude says we are supposed to allow God to help us overcome our worldly instincts by staying in His love (vs. 21), having a personal relationship with Him (vs. 20b.), and by continuously building our faith through learning and fellowship (vs. 20a), so we are not divided.

We are not, however, supposed to run screaming for the hills and hide out in caves from the evil, nasty world. We are supposed to recognize worldly beliefs and reject them while still being merciful to those who are still living without God, and allow God to work through us so they can be saved from destruction and false teaching. We are told to "Be merciful to those who doubt, snatch others from the fire and save them; to others show mercy, mixed with fear—hating even the clothing stained by corrupted flesh" (vs. 22-23). We need to show love to those who are hard to love and show mercy to those the world says don't deserve it, while still rejecting the beliefs and sins that go against God's teachings.

As God's church we are called to His work in the world. We are also called to be different from the world. Worldly, easy-to-understand-and-justify beliefs have no place in God's church. Just like the church Jude wrote to, we may need to take time to reevaluate our own personal ideas and beliefs and make sure they align with God's so we can't fall prey as a church to false teachers and be divided. Thankfully we don't have to do it alone. God is the one who works through us and protects us; He is the one who sacrificed so we could be covered when we blow it. We owe Him more than we can ever repay. "To Him who is able to keep you from falling and to present you before His glorious presence without fault and with great joy—to the only God our Savior be glory, majesty, power and authority, through Jesus Christ our Lord, before all ages, now and forevermore! Amen" (vs. 24-25).



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We are not, however, supposed to run screaming for the hills and hide out in caves from the evil, nasty world. We are supposed to recognize and fear worldly beliefs and reject them while still being merciful to those who are still living without God, and allow God to work through us so they can be saved from destruction and false teaching. We are told to "Be merciful to those who doubt, snatch others from the fire and save them; to others show mercy, mixed with fear—hating even the clothing stained by corrupted flesh" (vs. 22-23). We need to show love to those who are hard to love and show mercy to those the world says don't deserve it, while still rejecting the beliefs and sins that go against God's teachings.



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