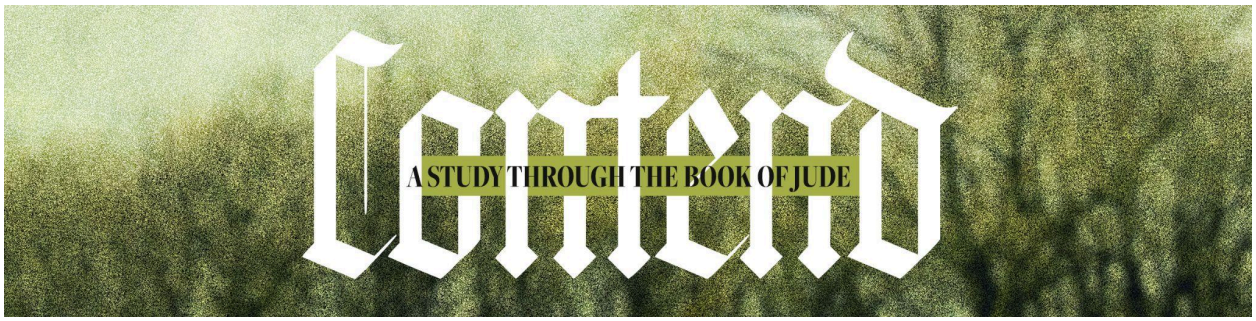


Contend — Week 2: Know Who You Follow

I felt compelled to write and urge you to contend for the faith that was once for all entrusted to God's holy people.

Jude 1:3 (NIV)

5 *Though you already know all this, I want to remind you that the Lord at one time delivered his people out of Egypt, but later destroyed those who did not believe.*

6 *And the angels who did not keep their positions of authority but abandoned their proper dwelling—these he has kept in darkness, bound with everlasting chains for judgment on the great Day.*

7 *In a similar way, Sodom and Gomorrah and the surrounding towns gave themselves up to sexual immorality and perversion. They serve as an example of those who suffer the punishment of eternal fire.*

Jude 1:5–7 (NIV)

DANGERS OF DEFYING GOD:

- Israel: _____ rejects God's Word. (Numbers 14)
- The angels: _____ rejects God's rule. (Genesis 6)
- Sodom and Gomorrah: _____ rejects God's design. (Genesis 19)

8 *In the very same way, on the strength of their dreams these ungodly people pollute their own bodies, reject authority and heap abuse on celestial beings.*

9 *But even the archangel Michael, when he was disputing with the devil about the body of Moses, did not himself dare to condemn him for slander but said, "The Lord rebuke you!"*

10 *Yet these people slander whatever they do not understand, and the very things they do understand by instinct—as irrational animals do—will destroy them.*

11 *Woe to them! They have taken the way of Cain; they have rushed for profit into Balaam's error; they have been destroyed in Korah's rebellion.*

Jude 1:8–11 (NIV)

DANGERS OF SELF-CENTERED RELIGION:

- Cain: Approaching God on my _____. (Genesis 4)
- Balaam: Using God's gifts for my _____. (Numbers 22–25)
- Korah: Seeking God's authority for my _____. (Numbers 16)

12 These are hidden reefs at your love feasts, as they feast with you without fear, shepherds feeding themselves; waterless clouds, swept along by winds; fruitless trees in late autumn, twice dead, uprooted;

13 wild waves of the sea, casting up the foam of their own shame; wandering stars, for whom the gloom of utter darkness has been reserved forever.

14 It was also about these that Enoch, the seventh from Adam, prophesied, saying, "Behold, the Lord comes with ten thousands of his holy ones,

15 to execute judgment on all and to convict all the ungodly of all their deeds of ungodliness that they have committed in such an ungodly way, and of all the harsh things that ungodly sinners have spoken against him."

16 These are grumblers, malcontents, following their own sinful desires; they are loud-mouthed boasters, showing favoritism to gain advantage.

Jude 1:12–16 (ESV)

- Look out for spiritual _____ and know what is ahead for _____. (Matthew 7:15–20, 2 Peter 2)

17 But, dear friends, remember what the apostles of our Lord Jesus Christ foretold.

18 They said to you, "In the last times there will be scoffers who will follow their own ungodly desires."

19 These are the people who divide you, who follow mere natural instincts and do not have the Spirit.

Jude 1:17–19 (NIV)

- Don't be _____ by those who walk away or twist the truth. Be prepared to _____. (2 Timothy 4:3–4)

Discussion questions:

- What helps you to continue trusting in God, especially when his word challenges your own thoughts and desires?
- What areas in your life do you find difficult to surrender your place or preferences to him?
- How can you grow in your ability to recognize teaching that is faithful to scripture while remaining humble and gracious toward others?
- What does it look like to stand firm in your convictions while continuing to demonstrate the love and grace of Jesus?

Recommended resources:

Contend: Standing Boldly for Biblical Truth While Winning the War Within, by Philip Anthony Mitchell
Book of Jude Summary, by The Bible Project
The Daniel Dilemma: How to Stand Firm and Love Well in a Culture of Compromise, by Chris Hodges
Thriving in Babylon: Why Hope, Humility, and Wisdom Matter in a Godless Culture, by Larry Osborne
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