

## Outline of Jude

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## Responding to Antinomianism

*Jude, Part VI*

Jude 20-23

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### I. Antinomianism in History: The Brethren of the Free Spirit (13<sup>th</sup>-15<sup>th</sup> Centuries)

Jude calls his audience to *contend earnestly for the faith* because they were threatened by false teachers, “*who turn the grace of our God into lewdness and deny our Lord Jesus Christ*” (4). These *ungodly men* advocated *antinomianism*, the idea that because God is forgiving, we need not concern ourselves with obeying His moral \_\_\_\_\_.

Jude 20–23 (NKJV)

<sup>20</sup>But you, beloved, building yourselves up on your most holy faith, praying in the Holy Spirit, <sup>21</sup>keep yourselves in the love of God, looking for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ unto eternal life. <sup>22</sup>And on some have compassion, making a distinction; <sup>23</sup>but others save with fear, pulling *them* out of the fire, hating even the garment defiled by the flesh.

### II. Responding to Antinomianism

#### A. Keep Yourselves in the Love of God (20-21)

Today Jude appeals to his audience to *keep themselves in the love of God*. Those to whom Jude writes are “*preserved (kept) in Jesus Christ*” (1b); God alone “*is able to keep [them] from stumbling*” (24a). But divine sovereignty and human responsibility complement one another in biblical teaching: God *preserves* us, and we *persevere*. Thus, we are to beware lest we depart from our love for God, lest our love grow cold or die (cf. Rev 2:4). And we are to remember that “*God is angry with the wicked every day*” (Ps 7:11) and that He “*\_\_\_\_\_ the workers of iniquity*” (Ps 5:5).

<sup>3</sup>Now by this we know that we know [God], if we keep His commandments. <sup>4</sup>He who says, “I know Him,” and does not keep His commandments, is a liar, and the truth is not in him. <sup>5</sup>But whoever keeps His word, truly the love of God is perfected in him. By this we know that we are in Him. <sup>6</sup>He who says he abides in Him ought himself also to walk just as He walked. (1 John 2:3–6)

So how do we keep ourselves in the love of God? First, by *building ourselves up on our most holy* \_\_\_\_\_. We are to grow from strength to strength (cf. Phil 3:12-14). Second, by *praying in the* \_\_\_\_\_. We are wholly dependent upon God to \_\_\_\_\_ us in His love (1b, 24 cf. Rom 8:26). Third, by *looking for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ unto eternal life*. Because Christ is Risen, we too shall rise from the dead when Christ returns in glory to judge the living and the dead (cf. Jn 3:36).

#### B. Make Distinctions (22-23)

What do we do with those who have been seduced by *antinomianism* and who are wandering away? Jude teaches us to *make* \_\_\_\_\_. Not everyone who has embraced *antinomianism* is to be treated in the same way. *On some have compassion...* Some through weakness have succumbed to temptation. *Others save with fear...* Others through rebellion have given themselves over to temptation. Distinguish. (cp. Gal 6:1)

### III. Confronting Antinomianism

#### A. Faith: Building Up vs. Deconstructing

First, faith. Jude exhorts us to *contend earnestly for the faith once for all committed to the saints* (3). We are to be loyal to *the faith* – the historic Christian *faith*, summarized in the Creeds. Further, we are to *build ourselves up on our most holy faith* (20). We are to deepen our understanding of how the Christian faith compels us to think and live. Jude invites us to think of the faith as a foundation upon which we can build. It is the only foundation that serves as a rock; to build on any other foundation is to be a fool and to build one's house upon the sand (Mt 7:24ff). Thus Paul urges us, "*I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, which is your reasonable service. And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God*" (Rom 12:1-2). We are to *build ourselves up on our most holy* \_\_\_\_\_.

Distinguish this calling to *build ourselves up* with the process of so-called, "*deconstruction*", dismantling one's faith by refusing to recognize the Triune God as revealed in Scripture as the authority in one's life. This process is generally accompanied by an increasing *conformity to the world* and its standards of morality.

#### B. Hope: Refugees vs. Missionaries

Second, hope. We are *looking for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ unto eternal life* (21). Earlier, Jude reminded us that when Christ returns in glory he will "*convict all who are ungodly among them of all their ungodly deeds which they have committed in an ungodly way, and of all the harsh things which ungodly sinners have spoken against Him*" (14-15). When Christ returns in glory, it will be a day of condemnation for those who reject Christ. But whereas that day will be darkness for those who are *ungodly*, it will be a day of vindication and hope for those who *trust in the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ* (cf. 1 Jn 2:28).

Because Christ has come into the world not to condemn the world but that the world might be saved through Him, we must learn to distinguish between *refugees* and *missionaries*. Some folks may come to our congregation because they have recognized the emptiness of the world and their need for forgiveness and transformation. They are \_\_\_\_\_ and should be welcomed. Others may come to lead others to embrace their ideology or practice. They are *missionaries* and must be excluded.

#### C. Love: Loving God vs. Hating God

Finally, love. We are to keep ourselves in the love of God. How do we do that? Our Lord Jesus was quite explicit in His instruction to the disciples:

<sup>9</sup>*As the Father loved Me, I also have loved you; abide in My love. <sup>10</sup>If you keep My commandments, you will abide in My love, just as I have kept My Father's commandments and abide in His love. <sup>11</sup>These things I have spoken to you, that My joy may remain in you, and that your joy may be full. (Jn 15:5-11)*

### IV. Conclusion