

LIFE TOGETHER

Contending Together— Jude 3

November 13, 2016

Beloved, although I was very eager to write to you about our common salvation, I found it necessary to write appealing to you to contend for the faith that was once for all delivered to the saints. **-Jude 3**

I. THE LETTER JUDE DID NOT WRITE

- Jude's original desire was to write a letter rejoicing in the common faith he shared with his readers (vs. 3).

II. THE LETTER JUDE DID WRITE

- Due to circumstances in the churches, Jude changed the purpose of his letter to address false teaching and to encourage his hearers to hold fast to the faith (vs. 3; 1 Tim 4:1-5; 2 Tim. 4:1-5; 2 Peter 2:1-22).
- Jude provides for his hearers their own people's graphic history as an object lesson (Num. 13-14; 1 Cor. 10:1-13; Heb. 3:16-19).
- Jude provides three salient examples:
 1. Jesus saved the Jews from slavery, then destroyed the non-believers in the desert (vs. 5).
 2. Angels who abandoned their "place" are now held for judgment (vs. 6).
 3. Sodom and Gomorrah (vs. 7).

III. CONTENDING TOGETHER AT LIFEPOINT

- Our faith is a marathon, not a sprint. We need help, we need people to follow, we need encouragement, we need to be rebuked, we need to be forgiven (Matt. 4:19; Luke 17:3; John 10:27; Acts 15:32; 20:2; Rom. 1:12; 1 Cor. 4:16; 11:1; Titus 1:9, 13).

KNOW: We must help one another along in the faith. If we cannot speak the truth to one another, we cannot contend together. If we let love be our guide, all will be safe.

DO: Contend together for the faith.

Suggested Reading:

True Community, by Jerry Bridges

Heresy: A History of Defending the Truth, by Alister McGrath

Questions/Discovery Points for Life Groups/Families

Please read Jude 3

1. What was Jude "very eager" to write about?
2. What do you think Jude meant by "the faith once for all delivered to the saints"?
3. What examples did Jude use in verses 5-7 to make his point? Why do you think he used them?
4. In what ways have you seen false teaching in your own life? Any examples that you can cite on how God preserved you from a false way of understanding him or his word?
5. What steps can we take, specifically, to help each other as we contend for the faith in our own lives?
6. Any questions that remain for you in terms of how to distinguish true teaching from false teaching?