

Contend Earnestly For the Faith Which Was Once For All Handed Down to the Saints

An Expository Study of the **Epistle of Jude**

Chapter 15- How to Combat Heresy **Jude 17-21**

173 How to Combat Heresy Part 9

WOSM Friday 07/04/08

Welcome again my beloved in Jesus Christ. We're continuing our verse by verse "journey" through the **Epistle of Jude** and today we are continuing to go over what Jude taught about "How to Combat Heresy." So, let's open our Bibles and read **Jude 17-21** again together:

17 But you, beloved, ought to remember the words that were spoken beforehand by the apostles of our Lord Jesus Christ,
18 that they were saying to you, "In the last time there will be mockers, following after their own ungodly lusts."
19 These are the ones who cause divisions, worldly-minded, devoid of the Spirit.
20 But you, beloved, building yourselves up on your most holy faith, praying in the Holy Spirit,
21 keep yourselves in the love of God, waiting anxiously for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ to eternal life.

Now we are continuing to go over the first of the four ways that Jude gave us to combat heresy when it comes to our Church. This first way is based upon the inspired words that Jude wrote to us in verse 20:

1. Build Yourself Up on Your Most Holy Faith

Now there are 10 separate Biblical keys for every believer to become spiritually strong; edified; mature; and equipped. So, let's go over the list:

1. Prayer
2. Bible Study

3. Godly Fellowship
4. Obedience
5. Being Filled With the Spirit
6. Confession
7. Love
8. Trust
9. Witnessing
10. Discernment

And so far- we have already gone over the first two items- Prayer and Bible Study and today I want to look at the third way to achieve spiritual strength- which is Godly Fellowship.

It is simply human nature for people to become more like those around them. As you gather together with people- there is a common denominator that causes you to want to be with those particular people. You share common interests, and you share common goals. This can be both good and bad- depending on the people you choose to associate with.

If you associate with people who smoke dope, for example- over time- you will at least become sympathetic with smoking dope. If you associate with bank robbers- you may not personally rob a bank- but you might drive the car for them.

Likewise, if you associate with those who serve God; who faithfully walk in paths of righteousness; who read their Bibles and who pray- then there is a much greater chance of those things becoming important to you also.

God's Word tells us over and over to watch our company and to associate with people who are serving the Lord. This is called "biblical separation" and it is a cornerstone of Christianity and should be practiced by believers today. However, more and more people in the modern Church have forgotten the ways of the Lord and they are now co-mingling with the unbeliever without any separation and this has brought about tragic results.

Biblical separation has nothing to do with whether we are better than somebody else. We are not better than *anyone* else. We are sinners who have been gloriously saved by God's Sovereign Grace apart from anything that we have or have not done. So, our Salvation should

never puff us up and causes us to think that we are better than someone else.

But although it is true that we are not better than anyone else- we are different. And we are not different because we are better- but we are different precisely because we are called and chosen and saved and redeemed and we no longer love the things that we used to love, and we no longer talk, and act and we are no longer a part of those activities that we used to do. Let's read **1Corinthians 6:9-11**:

9 Or do you not know that the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived; neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor effeminate, nor homosexuals,

10 nor thieves, nor *the* covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor swindlers, will inherit the kingdom of God.

11 Such were some of you; but you were washed, but you were sanctified, but you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and in the Spirit of our God.

Notice that Paul was describing some of the worst people in the community in verse 9 and 10 and clearly said that people who engage in such activities shall not inherit the kingdom of God. But then Paul goes on to say in verse 11:

Such were some of you; but you were washed, but you were sanctified, but you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and in the Spirit of our God.

So even though many who are now saved *used* to be like those people- we are *not* like those people now. And the reason that we are not like those people is not because we “turned over a new leaf;” and not because we made a New Year’s Resolution; and not because we pulled ourselves up by our own bootstraps. No, we are different now because and only because we have been washed in the pure Blood of Jesus Christ; because we have been born again or regenerated or sanctified by the power of the new divine nature that comes only from the Holy Spirit; we have been justified by the sinless life of the Son of God as the Lord has imputed to us the very same righteousness of Jesus Christ.

This is what makes saved people different. Our hearts are now changed and so the very cry of our heart is not to do what sinful people do- not at all- but it is to live a godly life in service to our wonderful Lord!; it is to preach the everlasting Gospel to every creature in the hope that they too may be saved.

And we have to understand, dear friends, that for a saved soul; for someone who is redeemed to do and live and act like lost sinners- is to doom those lost sinners to hell. And rest assured that when that sinner stands before God- he will have to give an account of the deeds done in his body whether they be good or bad. And rest assured that all unsaved souls will go to an everlasting hell.

But we also need to rest assured that if we assisted in their lostness by sinning with them; if we contributed to their lostness by sinning with them; if we did not preach the Gospel and they did not hear and you had the opportunity to sow seed into their hearts and yet you were too busy sinning with them to do so- rest assured Christian man and Christian woman; rest assured Christian young person that the blood of those who enter into hell will be dripping off your hands.

Read with me **Ezekiel 3:17-21:**

17 "Son of man, I have appointed you a watchman to the house of Israel; whenever you hear a word from My mouth, warn them from Me.

18 "When I say to the wicked, 'You will surely die,' and you do not warn him or speak out to warn the wicked from his wicked way that he may live, that wicked man shall die in his iniquity, but his blood I will require at your hand.

19 "Yet if you have warned the wicked and he does not turn from his wickedness or from his wicked way, he shall die in his iniquity; but you have delivered yourself.

20 "Again, when a righteous man turns away from his righteousness and commits iniquity, and I place an obstacle before him, he will die; since you have not warned him, he shall die in his sin, and his righteous deeds which he has done shall not be remembered; but his blood I will require at your hand.

21 "However, if you have warned the righteous man that the righteous should not sin and he does not sin, he shall surely live because he took warning; and you have delivered yourself."

"So, what are you suggesting that I do with my all friends, Brother Blair? They might not want to serve Jesus-but they are my friends. So,

what do you suggest that I do with them?" Well, I suggest that you obey the Word of God-let's read **Ephesians 5:11**:

Do not participate in the unfruitful deeds of darkness, but instead even expose them;

Now this verse does not say that you are to shun people who do not serve Jesus Christ. But what this verse *does* mean is that you are not to do what these sinful people do. So, can you go out to eat with sinners? Sure you can. You can sit with them and eat but you should not sin with them.

But before we just move on- I want to explore the practical application of **Ephesians 5:11** to a situation like this. Can you go out to eat with sinful people? Sure you can. But you are forbidden by Scripture from participating in their unfruitful works of darkness. So how does this verse affect our dinner? Let's see. When you go out to eat- you should not order drinks, and neither should you pay for the drinks that they order; and you should not laugh at their nasty jokes; and you should not agree with the sin that they will talk about.

But notice that in this verse- we are not just commanded not to sin with them- but we are also commanded to actively expose their works of sin. So, as you sit at dinner with these sinners and as you are not laughing with them and as you are not drinking with them and as you are not engaging yourself in their sinful conversation- you also are actively rebuking the sin that they are engaged in. Now how do you think that dinner will go?

I suggest that you will find that one of two things happens when you fellowship with sinners. Either you will be miserable as you keep quiet and try real hard not to fall into their sin or you will make them miserable as they listen to your preaching. And either way- it is a miserable dinner for somebody.

You see, when genuine saints are fellowshiping with unbelievers- it is assured that *somebody* is going to be miserable. Either you are going to engage in their sin with them or else they are going to wish that you would leave

So, the question that you have to ask yourself is this, "*What am I accomplishing by fellowshiping with people who do not love Jesus and who have no plans at all to serve or obey God?"*

And the answer to that question is that you have only one reason to ever fellowship with unbelievers and that one reason is so that you may plant seeds in their hearts in the hope that God will save them. Let's read **2Corinthians 6:14-18**:

14 Do not be bound together with unbelievers; for what partnership have righteousness and lawlessness, or what fellowship has light with darkness?

15 Or what harmony has Christ with Belial, or what has a believer in common with an unbeliever?

16 Or what agreement has the temple of God with idols? For we are the temple of the living God; just as God said, "*I WILL DWELL IN THEM AND WALK AMONG THEM; AND I WILL BE THEIR GOD, AND THEY SHALL BE MY PEOPLE.*"

17 "Therefore, *COME OUT FROM THEIR MIDST AND BE SEPARATE,*" says the Lord. "*AND DO NOT TOUCH WHAT IS UNCLEAN; And I will welcome you.*"

18 "And I will be a father to you, And you shall be sons and daughters to Me," Says the Lord Almighty.

This is "Christian Separation," and it is just as much a part of Biblical Christianity as is prayer or Bible Study. And again- this has nothing to do with us thinking we are better than somebody- but it is humble obedience to God- Who desires that we be separated from sin so that we can separated unto Him and for His Glory.

So, I wonder where so many in the modern Church get the notion that it doesn't matter if they date and then marry people who are not saved. Listen- if they don't love and serve Jesus now- they sure won't serve Him after you're married to them. I can't tell you how many crying husbands and wives I have held in my arms as they mourn over the fact that they cannot do what they believe God has called them to do because they are married to an unbeliever. So, I beg you to hear me about this, dear friends.

And this also means that Christians should not enter into business partnerships with those who are not saved. And it really doesn't matter if those people are very smart in business. If they are lost- you are free to hire him as an employee and you can go to work for him as his employee- but if you join into a business partnership with someone who is not saved- God – not the devil- I say God will tear it down.

It also means that those that we spend the most time with should be fellow believers. Now you can argue with me about this till the cows come home- but I didn't write this- God did. And He does not expect anything less out of us today than He did from all the saved people- both young and old- all throughout time. Bottom line: we can be friends with the lost souls to a point- but sooner or later- there has to be a separation and if there is not a separation- then one of two things has occurred: Either they got saved or you compromised. Either they were saved and fell in love with Jesus, or you failed God and fell in love with their sin. Either they moved up or you moved down; but somebody changed.

“Well, what am I supposed to do then, Brother Blair? Sit at home and twiddle my thumbs?” No, a Christian should never be idle. Until every soul on earth has heard the Gospel- there is plenty to do. So, it is not enough for you just to be separated from sinners- no, you should then join yourself to other Christians in times of Godly fellowship.

Well, I have to stop right here but please join me on the next broadcast as we continue our journey through the Epistle of Jude. May God help us all.

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