

Be Ye Different

Jude 17-25

7/08/07

Intro

The letter from Jude is another short book with a straightforward message. Jude is the half-brother of Jesus and brother to James. He humbly calls himself a bond-servant of Jesus Christ and writes this short letter to warn the church to not stray into dangerous false doctrines, which was attempting to draw the church back into worldliness.

Instead, he challenges the church to be different from the world. The false teachers were worldly minded and devoid of the Spirit of the living God. That is the key to what he is writing; those who pursue the world do so because they do not have the life of the Spirit.

The life of the Spirit is what makes us different; that is what changes lives. Simply going to church is not what changes us; we are changed by asking for and living by the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus. In the same way that simply going to a gym doesn't get us in shape; watching a workout video doesn't change us.

We are not changed until we are moved by the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus. That's what Jude is telling us in this letter.

These are insights of how we are to be different, how we are to be changed by the Spirit of life.

I. Keep Yourself in the Love of God

- We begin in verse 21 where Jude summarizes the way we are to be different.
- This is the key to the difference between those who are changed and those who remain the same.

A. Build yourself up in your faith

- The meaning is to build on the foundation that has been laid.
- Jesus taught that we should build a strong foundation in our lives, and that of course, is the Lord Himself.
- Now, Jude makes it clear that we need to build on that foundation and build up our lives in regards to our faith.

App – We have an important part in our growing faith. God gives us the timber, the stones, the mortar; and we are to build a life that is of strong faith.

I Corinthians 3:10-13, According to the grace of God which was given to me, like a wise master builder I laid a foundation, and another is building on it. But each man must be careful how he builds on it. For no man can lay a foundation other than the one which is laid, which is Jesus Christ. Now if any man builds on the foundation with gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, straw, each man's work will become evident; for the day will show it because it is to be revealed with

fire, and the fire itself will test the quality of each man's work.

- We need to understand that the stresses and burdens of life will drain us spiritually.

Illus – We like to go camping, but the stress of getting everything ready, making the long journey, and setting up camp often take away the joy of the experience.

- Jesus talked about the dangers of this when He taught a parable about different kinds of lives likes different soils...

Mark 4:18-20, “And others are the ones on whom seed was sown among the thorns; these are the ones who have heard the word, but the worries of the world, and the deceitfulness of riches, and the desires for other things enter in and choke the word, and it becomes unfruitful. And those are the ones on whom seed was sown on the good soil; and they hear the word and accept it and bear fruit, thirty, sixty, and a hundredfold.”

- In contrast, we have the presence of the Holy Spirit to bring life to our soul and to build us up in regards to our faith.

B. Praying in the Spirit

- We've all had times when we've prayed simple prayers that were perhaps fitting for the moment, but weren't exactly our deepest prayer; like, for example, a quick prayer over a meal.

- Jude writes that we should pray in the Holy Spirit. There is some disagreement over what he meant, but clearly, he means something more than to say a quick prayer over a meal.
- In contrast, I think we've all had times when we've needed to pray with all our heart, and desire to draw near to the heart of God.
- Paul gives us insight that the Spirit helps us in our prayers when we our prayers are too deep for words.

Romans 8:26-27, In the same way the Spirit also helps our weakness; for we do not know how to pray as we should, but the Spirit Himself intercedes for us with groanings too deep for words; and He who searches the hearts knows what the mind of the Spirit is, because He intercedes for the saints according to the will of God.

Illus – I've had times when I cried out to God because I didn't know *what* to pray. I've had times when I didn't know what I was asking for; I've had times when I cried out because I didn't know *how* to pray.

- But can we pray deeply other than times of crisis? I think that is what Jude is directing us to; that we need to keep ourselves in the love of God and praying in the Spirit is an essential part of it.
- Some have suggested this is praying in tongues. At Calvary Chapel we believe in the availability of all spiritual gifts and I believe this would be

included in what Jude is writing, because we certainly are built up by it (I Cor 14:4).

- But the essence of what Jude is writing is simply the nearness of God when we pray with a heart of intimacy, *and the Spirit is praying with us.*
- Jesus taught of this when He taught His disciples to pray and told them to call God their father. The Pharisees had taught to not even say His name.

Matthew 6:5-13 Jesus teaches on prayer

- In the Garden of Gethsemane, Jesus even called God “Abba, Father,” which means Papa.
- This we know; that when the Holy Spirit comes into a person, *He comes in power.*

Acts 1:8, “but you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be My witnesses both in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and even to the remotest part of the earth.”

Illus – When Elijah prayed the heavens were shut for three years and six months, and he had a nature like ours.

C. Have a godly mind

- Vs 19 – when Jude refers to the people who were disturbing the church, he said that they were worldly minded, devoid of the Spirit.

- We can see from that, then, that the opposite should be true of us; that we should be godly minded, filled with the Spirit of life.
- If we were to take a quick poll, we would discover that most people want to be godly.
- Here is one of the most important keys to that-our mind.

App – If we want to be godly, we must think godly. If we want to be gracious, we must think gracious. If want to be patient, we must think patience, etc.

Romans 8:6-7, For the mind set on the flesh is death, but the mind set on the Spirit is life and peace, because the mind set on the flesh is hostile toward God; for it does not subject itself to the law of God, for it is not even able to do so,

Isaiah 26:3, You will keep him in perfect peace, whose mind is stayed on You, because he trusts in You. NKJV

- We must be very careful, because we become what we think.

Proverbs 23:6-7, Do not eat the bread of a selfish man, or desire his delicacies; for as he thinks within himself, so he is.

- Jude encourages us to have a mindset of anticipation of the mercies of God.

II. Be a Godly Provoker

- Most people think of the word ‘provoke’ as a negative word, but I’m using it here in a good sense.
- We’ve all experienced the provoking of others to do something dumb. How many children have given into being dared, and even ‘d-double-dared’ to do something.
- What we need to learn is the importance of being a godly provoker.

A. Strengthen the doubter

- One area that Jude is telling us to help others is when they start to waiver in their faith.
- The church was being influenced by false teaching and it was causing some to be shaken. ‘Strengthen the doubter’ is a call to stir others up in their faith.

Illus – Daniel was a young Hebrew man who was taken captive to Babylon along with many others. There he determined in his heart not to defile himself with the king’s choice food.

What’s interesting is that just a few verses later, he has included Hananiah, Mishael and Azariah who later became known as Shadrach, Meshach and Abed-nego.

- The word literally means to encourage those who hesitate or who withdraw, or pull back.

Hebrews 10:24-25, and let us consider how to stimulate one another to love and good deeds, not forsaking our own assembling together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another; and all the more as you see the day drawing near.

- We see Paul strengthening Timothy...

I Timothy 1:18-19, This command I entrust to you, Timothy, my son, in accordance with the prophecies previously made concerning you, that by them you fight the good fight, keeping faith and a good conscience, which some have rejected and suffered shipwreck in regard to their faith.

B. Snatch people out of the fire

- Here Jude makes it clear that the Lord uses us to tell people that there is a way out of the world’s destruction;
- That we have the message of life that a dying world needs to hear.

Illus – I received a rather unusual email once where someone told me I should stop saving souls. “Only God can save souls,” it said.

It’s true that only God can save souls, but we get to tell people that good news and thus we snatch them out of the fire.

II Corinthians 5:20, Therefore, we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God were making an appeal

through us; we beg you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God.

- The good news is that not only are we snatched from the fire, but He is able to keep us from stumbling and to present us blameless before Him.

Illus – When I was 15 my brother and I had to get a doctors approval before we could take a scuba diving class. He pulled out our files and my brother’s was just one sheet of paper, but my file was over a half inch thick.

I was experienced at stumbling and falling. I jumped off the barn and almost bit off the tip of my tongue, I had stitches and scars in many places.

All our scars and bruises from stumbling are removed in Christ and He will present us faultless, blameless, and with great joy.

Colossians 1:21-22, And although you were formerly alienated and hostile in mind, engaged in evil deeds, yet He has now reconciled you in His fleshly body through death, in order to present you before Him holy and blameless and beyond reproach--