



**August 10, 2025**

**Title:** "Ways to Identify False Teachers"

**Scripture:** Jude 1:3-4

## **Review**

Who is Jude? He tells us in **verse 1**:

1. He is the brother of James - who became head of the Jerusalem Church in **Acts 15**
2. James and Jude are the half-brothers of Jesus
3. They were in the Upper Room before Pentecost - **Acts 1:14**  
*"All these with one accord were devoting themselves to prayer together with the women and Mary the mother of Jesus, and his brothers."*

FYI: Apostolic authority was needed to write a New Testament book. How was this determined? This was a person who:

1. Walked with Jesus (Jude did as a member of Jesus's family for many years)
2. Saw the resurrected Jesus (Jude, like James, probably was among the 500 who saw the resurrection that Paul mentioned in **1 Corinthians 15**)
3. Taught the Old Testament accurately (we will see this with Jude in the upcoming verses)
4. Consistently taught general truths of Jesus's teaching in their epistle

### Introduction:

- **Jude** is the 4<sup>th</sup> smallest book in the New Testament
- It contains 25 verses (we will cover over 2 ½ months) - a deep dive!
- **The theme:** Contend for the faith by being aware of false teachers

**Today's verses:** Ways to identify these false teachers

### Jude 1:3

**3** *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.*

"Beloved" (agapetos) - how much God has loved us in Jesus:

1. The cradle
2. The cross
3. So, we are to love one another:

### John 13:34

**34** *A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another: just as I have loved you, you also are to love one another.*

If possible, step over the offense!! (the need to be right)

- Eager to write you - means in a hurry, immediacy, this is really important - what Jude felt with this letter
- About our common salvation: the unity of Christians' beliefs (love and unity) - a common salvation all knew
- Jude finds it necessary (he's compelled, feeling divine pressure. God does this to me sometimes: "*David, you need to preach on \_\_\_\_\_*")

- Jude is appealing to them, even begging them. To do what?:
- TO CONTEND FOR THE FAITH (the theme of this book)
- THE faith equals THE truth (objective truth defined by God and not feelings)...the gospel of grace
- This is the Christian's *Super Bowl*: the fight of faith
- The two ways Satan attacks Christians and the church:
  - From outside through persecution (Nigeria, Mozambique recently) - pray for the persecuted church
  - From inside through false teachers and teaching
- The faith once for all: a common faith with set beliefs for all Christians for all times is implied
- Delivered to the saints (orally and written - a canon by the time of Jude's writing?)
- Who are the saints mentioned here? All who believe in Jesus
- This oral and written faith cannot be added to ("once for all")
- **Revelation 22:18-19**

***18** I warn everyone who hears the words of the prophecy of this book: if anyone adds to them, God will add to him the plagues described in this book, **19** and if anyone takes away from the words of the book of this prophecy, God will take away his share in the tree of life and in the holy city, which are described in this book.*

#### **Jude 1:4**

**4** *For certain people have crept in unnoticed who long ago were designated for this condemnation, ungodly people, who pervert the grace of our God into sensuality and deny our only Master and Lord, Jesus Christ.*

- False teachers had crept in unnoticed and perverted God's grace
- Grace is the key word to understand the Christian faith
- Like today, over the decades, in seminaries, teaching positions, pastors, false teachers have crept in and the faith (the truth) is watered down, made disjointed, mistaught, and disregarded
- Long ago these false teachers were designated for condemnation by God
- Assigned to hell long ago (before creation? God is not bound by time)

- I think especially teachers/professors of young, impressionable students in college need to understand (the millstone in **Matthew 18:6**):

**6** *but whoever causes one of these little ones who believe in me to sin, it would be better for him to have a great millstone fastened around his neck and to be drowned in the depth of the sea.*

- While away on Sabbatical the Spirit took me to **Ezekiel 3:16-18**

**16** *And at the end of seven days, the word of the Lord came to me: 17 "Son of man, I have made you a watchman for the house of Israel. Whenever you hear a word from my mouth, you shall give them warning from me. 18 If I say to the wicked, 'You shall surely die,' and you give him no warning, nor speak to warn the wicked from his wicked way, in order to save his life, that wicked person shall die for his iniquity, but his blood I will require at your hand.*

- These false teachers are ungodly people (if it's not God leading them, then who is it?). They are not watchmen. They do not warn. I must.
- Several ways to identify ungodly, false teachers:
  1. Their character: they use the grace of God as a license for sin
  2. Their conduct: especially using grace for sensuality
  3. Their creed: they deny Jesus as Master and Lord
- Jesus's deity/Trinity is necessary: right teaching (refuting the cults)
- Jesus's exclusivity for salvation (sound Christology):

#### **John 14:6**

**6** *Jesus said to him, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.*

#### **Acts 4:12**

**12** *And there is salvation in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved."*

### Matthew 7:13-14

**13** *“Enter by the narrow gate. For the gate is wide and the way is easy that leads to destruction, and those who enter by it are many. **14** For the gate is narrow and the way is hard that leads to life, and those who find it are few.*

#### Apply it:

- Believing this about Jesus invites persecution, rejection, and ridicule
- If you call yourself a follower of Jesus, here's what you say. When ridicule or persecution comes your way: **“So be it!”**
- It's proof that your beliefs are not false, and you will never become a false teacher
- It starts with you, parents: **Teach your children well about Jesus!**
  1. Jesus is Master over our lives. Jesus is Lord over all the universe.
  2. Jesus created all. He rules over all.
  3. Jesus alone is worthy of all our worship and obedience.

**Next week:** What happens to false teachers?