UBTC Mongolia (10 June 16)/CIC (24 July 16) Dr. Rick Griffith

CIC again (5 Jan 20) Message 62 of 66

NLT 40 Minutes

**Be Fighting**

Title

***Letter of Jude***

**Topic:** Pretenders

**Subject:** How can you defend the faith against pretenders?

**Complement:** Be a contender against pretenders.

**Purpose:** The listeners will fight for the gospel.

**Meditation:** Jude 4

**Reading:** Whole letter of Jude (25 verses) or else Jude 1-4

**Song:** Jude 24-25 Benediction and “This I Believe” (Matt Crocker & Ben Fielding)

# Introduction

### Interest: Are you a fighter? Give a “yes” or “no” answer to the person next to you.

Fighter?

#### What are you willing to fight for?

#### To what lengths are you willing to go to fight for your rights?

#### To what lengths are you willing to go to fight for the gospel?

### Need: Believers have failed to fight apostasy the past 200+ years.

Apostate

#### Apostates are unbelievers among the saints who destroy the church within. This has occurred significantly in what used to be called the “Christian West.”

#### Too bad apostates don’t wear nametags!

Nametag

#### Kevin Swanson is one heroic writer exposing apostates.

Swanson

##### Who exactly are we talking about? Men like Nathaniel Hawthorne, Mark Twain, John Dewey, Jean-Paul Sartre, Charles Darwin, Karl Marx, Friedrich Nietzsche, Ernest Hemingway, and Lady Gaga.

Faces

##### Swanson says of these men, "This is the story of the decline and fall of Western civilization. It is the story of uncommonly powerful men, unfathomably evil men. . . apostates."

Book

##### Why are they significant and how did they destroy the Christian West?

Quotes

###### Dewey successfully established a public education system in the USA with the purpose of taking children away from the godly influence of their parents.

• Dewey

###### Darwin successfully convinced the scientific and academic communities to abandon creationism for evolution.

• Darwin

###### Marx successfully convinced generations within many countries that God doesn’t exist, leading to the death of millions.

• Marx

###### Speaking of death, Nietzsche founded the “God is Dead” movement. God had the last word in his life, though, as 17 years later God founded the “Nietzsche is Dead” movement.

God dead  
• FN dead

#### We must also fight apostates in our own church!

### Subject: How can you defend the faith against pretenders? How can we fight unbelieving false teachers in our own churches?

Subject

### Background: Jude told the Christians about AD 75 to fight for the faith.

4 Books

#### Only four NT “books” have but one chapter.

#### Though small enough to be considered and email, these short books are incredibly impactful.

NT Chart

4 Emails

#### The letter of Jude was penned late and short.

### Preview: Today in Jude we’ll explore *four ways* to fight pretenders.

4 MPS

### Text: The “email” of Jude is our fighting manual.

Jude

#### The letter is about “contending against pretenders.”

Jude Chart

#### Its key verse tells us to contend for (or defend) the faith.

Keys

#### The early church had no problem accepting this letter, despite its short size.

Author

#### The letter itself shows evidence of being written by the half brother of Jesus.

Family of Jesus

#### Judas was a younger son of Joseph and Mary (explain).

4 MPS

### Preview Review: Today in Jude we’ll explore *four ways* to fight pretenders.

(The first way you can defend the faith against pretenders is to...)

# I. Affirm the saints (1-2).

MP

[Tell believers about their riches in Christ.]

## God himself *calls* us to salvation (1a).

1-2

## God himself *loves* us (1b).

## God himself *keeps* us in his forever family (1c).

## God himself *gives* us mercy, peace, and love (2).

### Mercy is the first grace to be multiplied as God's protection from merciless pretenders (2a).

### Peace is wished upon the readers in the midst of their war against false teachers (2b).

### Love from God is wished upon the readers as protection and assurance in their trials (2c).

Subject

(Our first defense against nominal Christians is to affirm the true believers of their high position in Christ. But shouldn’t we also make sure we know who we’re talking about? Yes! Verses 3-16 tell us to…)

MPI

# II. Identify the enemy (3-16).

MP

[Know the evil nature of the apostates who pretend to know God.]

## Defend the faith against pretenders who infiltrate the church (3-4).

### Jude changed his original intent of writing on salvation to defending the truth (3).

3

#### His original purpose was to write on the salvation he shared with his readers (3a).

• Professors

#### After learning that his readers faced apostates among them, and through the Spirit's leading, Jude changed his theme to defend doctrinal truth (3b).

### Jude changed his original purpose to write because prophesied (e.g., Isa. 8:19-22; cf. Jer. 5:12-14) unbelieving pretenders infiltrated the church (4).

4

### Are pretenders Christians? No. Pretenders are not true believers.

Are They Christians?

#### They are condemned, unlike believers (cf. Rom 8:1)

#### They are like demons in everlasting chains (v. 6)

#### They are like Sodomites who suffer eternal fire (v. 7)

#### They are reserved for "blackest darkness" (v. 13)

#### They "do not have the Spirit" (v. 18) while all believers do have the Spirit (Rom 8:9b)

#### Judas was the ultimate pretender. Imagine: He was there with Jesus himself for three years but never really trusted Christ! He ate with him, heard all the teaching, even went out in evangelism paired up with another disciple—but still never knew Christ! He betrayed him with a kiss.

• Kiss

Judas

#### In this regard, I’d like to clarify the identity of what we call the “Professing Christian.”

Professing Christian

##### Suppose this circle represents all people.

• All Humanity

##### A portion of all humanity is the true Christian community that genuinely knows Christ personally. The rest are non-Christians.

• Christians

##### But where do we put “professing Christians”? Inside the white or the black circle?

##### Since a “professing Christian” doesn’t really know Christ, is he a type of Christian? No! He only professes to be a Christian, but in reality is a type of non-Christian. He is a pretender.

Benny Hinn

#### As an example, Benny Hinn teaches that we are “God” who gets God to heal every disease! I hear that he has actually renounced his teaching and truly come to know Christ. I hope that is true!

## Be aware of three OT pretenders so you can avoid them (5-7).

OT Examples

### Of the two million Israelites delivered from Egypt, some did not believe God like the pretenders of whom Jude warns (5; cf. Korah, v. 11 in Num. 16).

5

#### Judgment lasted 40 years.

40 Years?

#### God disciplined the people with snakes for speaking against him (Num 21:6-7).

Snakes

### Some demons that possessed rulers who seduced women [Gen. 6:1-4] are now punished and awaiting judgment to illustrate the pretenders' end in hell (6).

6

### Sodom, Gomorrah, and nearby towns, who were judged for homosexuality, show that pretenders will suffer eternal fire (7).

7

## Note the godless behavior of pretenders to avoid them and their practices (8-13).

Behavior  
8-13

### Their speech rejects all authorities, including angelic ones, unlike Michael's refusal to dispute with Satan over Moses' body (8-10).

#### They pollute their bodies and reject authorities, even speaking against angelic authorities (8).

8

#### These men should never slander angels since Michael didn’t argue with Satan over where to bury Moses' body but left the matter in God's hands (9).

9

##### These men should never slander angels since Michael didn’t argue with Satan over where to bury Moses' body but left it in God's hands (9a).

##### Instead of arguing with Satan, Michael left the matter in God's hands [9b, as recorded in the Pseudepigrapha book, *The Assumption of Moses*].

##### In a similar way, Joel Osteen blasphemes God by applying the divine title “I Am” to himself.

I Am

#### Pretenders slander angels whom they don't understand and, like unreasoning animals, are destroyed by practices whose effects they know full well (10).

### Their religion will kill others as Cain killed his brother Abel [Gen. 4:8] (11a).

10-11

### Their greed resembles Balaam’s claim to speak for God, but actual motive for money [Num. 22] (11b).

Balaam

Narrative

(3 slides)

Fire

#### Balaam looked like he honored God (Num 22–24).

Map

(3 slides)

#### But he got the people off into immorality—and made a lot of money off it.

### Apostate rebellion is against leaders whom God designated like the rebellion Korah led against Moses so they will also suffer death [Num. 16] (11c).

Korah

#### Korah rebelled against Moses and the earth swallowed his family.

#### Similarly, the leaders with him were burned (Num 16:31-35).

### Nature graphically illustrates the destructive lifestyles of the pretenders to warn us to avoid their practices (12-13).

#### Like hidden reefs that wreck ships before they are detected, pretenders even join in the most intimate church celebrations while they destroy it within (12a). Reefs are beautiful for diving, but not for ships!

12a  
(2 clicks)

#### Like shepherds who feed themselves rather than the sheep, these leaders seek only their own desires (12b).

12b

#### Like clouds seemingly filled but waterless and blown around, these men appear saintly but have no teaching for thirsty souls (12c).

#### Like trees lacking the expected autumn fruit, they lack Christian character but are dead in their sins and will experience eternal separation from God (12d).

##### In this vein, what about the prosperity gospel? Well, God prospers us—along with suffering!

Prosperity

Second Coming

##### But Joel Osteen preaches prosperity only.

Osteen  
(6 slides)

#### Like waves of the sea that direct ships nowhere, these men give no helpful or edifying guidance but instead practice shameful actions (13a).

13

#### Like shooting stars moving across the sky and vanishing without light or direction, pretenders lead followers astray from God's truth to hell (13b).

Osteen  
(2 slides)

## See the future judgment of pretenders for their selfishness to avoid them (14-16).

Destiny  
(14-16)

### Enoch prophesied the judgment of pretenders at Christ’s Second Coming to warn people to avoid them (14-15).

14a

#### Enoch as the seventh generation from Adam reminds us to take the Bible in its normal sense! Genesis 5 has no gaps!

No Gaps!

#### Enoch, accurately quoted by the Pseudepigrapha *Book of Enoch* [1:9], prophesied of the pretenders' judgment to guard believers from them (14a).

14b-15

#### At Christ’s Second Coming with saints and angels, he will judge these men for their ungodly actions and words spoken against him (14b-15).

### Their selfish lifestyles show us to recognize and avoid them (16).

16

#### They complain about difficulties rather than rejoice in them (16a).

#### They find fault in others rather than encourage them (16b).

#### They lust for their own, sensual advantage rather than serve others (16c).

#### They boast about their own achievements rather than praise others (16d).

#### They flatter others for special favors rather than unselfishly help them (16e).

Subject

(Verses 3-16 show what to look for in the pretenders. But what should we look for in us? This brings us to our third way to protect ourselves from godless pretenders…)

MPs  
(2 MPS)

3 Practices

# III. Strengthen your faith (17-23).

MP

[Build yourself up by following three practices.]

## *Remember* the apostles predicted these men so you won’t be led astray (17-19).

17-19

### The apostles warned about pretenders so we could recognize and avoid them (17; cf. 2 Peter 3:1f.).

### The apostles warned that pretenders would be scoffing, selfish, divisive, sensual and void of the Spirit (18-19).

#### They scoff at the things which God and believers hold sacred (18a).

#### They are led by desires that a godly person resists (18b).

#### They divide the church into various camps with competing leaders, doctrines and emphases (19a).

#### They follow sensual instincts without restraint (19b).

#### They do not have the indwelling ministry of the Spirit as believers do (19c).

## *Nurture yourself* in God's love by studying the Bible, praying as the Spirit prays, and looking for the Rapture—all to protect from pretender wiles (20-21).

20-21

### Nurture yourself in God's love by studying the holy faith as revealed in the Scriptures to protect yourself from the wiles of the pretenders (20a).

### Nurture yourself in God's love by praying in the power of the Spirit in fellowship with God so the Spirit's thoughts are your thoughts (20b).

### Nurture yourself in God's love by eagerly anticipating his mercy when he removes us from the earth at the Rapture to begin our eternal life in his presence (21).

## *Show mercy* to the followers of the pretenders by encouraging them and witnessing to them while at the same time watching that you do not fall into their errors (22-23).

22-23

### Show mercy on and encourage, rather than slander or accuse, believers confused by the pretenders (22).

### Share Christ with unbelievers following the pretenders rather than joining pretenders in eternal fire in Hell (23a).

### Show mercy to other pretender followers to guard from becoming defiled by them like a disease that easily spreads from a dirty garment (23b).

Subject

MPs  
(3 MPS)

(Jude gives a final way to protect against the pretenders...)

# IV. Praise God for security (24-25).

MP

[Be assured of your final victory.]

## Praise God as the only one who can keep us from apostasy so we know that only God will make us blameless in heaven (24).

24-25

### Praise God as the only one who can keep us from apostasy (24a).

### Praise God alone that he will present us before him in heaven sinless and with great joy to encourage us to live for God now (24b).

## Honor God alone as the only Savior with unlimited resources for all time to be encouraged that his unlimited resources can protect us from apostasy (25).

(So how can you defend the faith against pretenders?)

Subject

# Conclusion

MI

### Be a contender against pretenders (Main Idea).

Title

### Four ways to defend against apostasy include (Main Points):

MPI

MPII

#### Affirm the saints (1-2).

#### Identify the enemy (3-16).

#### Strengthen your faith (17-23).

MPIV

MPIII

#### Praise God for security (24-25).

### Do you believe “The Apostle’s Creed”?

Creed  
(4 slides)

### Prayer

Prayer

# Preliminary Questions

**Verses Questions**

# Context: What did the author record just prior to this passage?

# Purpose: Why is this passage in the Bible?

# Background: What historical context helps us understand this passage?

# Questions

# Tentative Subject/Complement Statements

# *Exegetical Idea*: Jude warns Christians at large of pretenders—unbelievers who have infiltrated their churches masking themselves as Christians but perverting the truth by their lifestyles of license—in order to defend the holiness of the church.

# *Exegetical Idea*: The purpose Jude warns of pretenders who have infiltrated their churches is to defend the holiness of the church.

# Possible Illustrations

### Text

# Possible Applications

### Read God’s Word every day.

### Check with a mature believer about the books you read and the speakers you listen to.

**Jude**

**Introduction**

**I. Title** The Greek title (’Iou,da *Iouda*) follows the tradition of naming General Epistles after the author.

**II. Authorship**

A. External Evidence: Despite its small size and limited subject matter, Jude was accepted as authentic and quoted by the early Church Fathers, including Tertullian and Origen. It was also included in the Muratorian Canon (*ca.* AD 170).

B. Internal Evidence: This is the only NT letter of Jude, half-brother of Jesus Christ and son of Joseph and Mary. Jude was also the brother of James (v. 1a), another half brother of the Lord (Matt. 13:55; Mark 6:3), the leader of the church at Jerusalem (Acts 15:13) and author of the epistle bearing his name (James 1:1). Jude is the same as Judah or Judas and means “praise” (cf. Rom. 2:29).

**III. Circumstances**

A. Date: Most scholars believe Jude wrote between AD 67-80, especially since the readers themselves had heard the apostles (v. 17). For this course a date of about AD 75 will be used (Hoehner’s dating).

B. Origin/Recipients: Jude does not specify an exact church (v. 1b), but the many references to the Old Testament (Egypt, Sodom and Gomorrah, Moses, Cain, Balaam, Korah, Enoch, Adam, and fallen angels) and to extrabiblical literature suggests that the original recipients may have been Christian Jews of Palestine who were gathered into local fellowships (E. Pentecost, *BKC*, 2:918).

C. Occasion: The men Jude condemned were “denying the lordship of Christ (v. 4), exercising sinful license (vv. 4, 8, 16), rebelling against authority (vv. 8, 11, 18), giving into their own desires (vv. 16, 19), being concerned only with gain for themselves (vv. 11-12, 16), being divisive (v. 19), fault-finding (v. 16), and boasting (v. 16)” (Pentecost, 917). He wrote to inform the church of these men so that believers would not fall into their error, which evidently was more behavioral than doctrinal.

**IV. Characteristics**

A. Like 2 John, this “postcard” warns against unbelieving false leaders–especially a beginning form of Gnosticism. Gnostics taught that the spirit was good and the body evil. Since the body was evil “you may as well live it up!” This led to all kinds of arrogant indulgences.

B. Jude is the only NT book that refers to the Pseudepigrapha (“falsely ascribed” books). He alludes to the Assumption of Moses (Jude 9) and quotes 1 Enoch 1:10 (Jude 14-15). However, he does not affirm the authority of these books.

C. Jude is fond of triads. For example, he uses triads in verse 1 (Jude, servant, brother; called, sanctified, preserved), verse 2 (mercy, peace, love), and verses 5-7 (people, angels, those who did not believe), etc. (*TTTB*, 503).

D. The letter of Jude summarizes 2 Peter 2 in many respects. See pages 316a-b for comparisons.

**Argument**

The Letter of Jude exhorts its readers to “contend for the faith” (v. 3b) which is endangered by pretenders seeking to lead the Lord's people away from their moorings in Christ. After the greeting and blessing (vv. 1-2), Jude exposes the pretenders of the faith within the church (vv. 3-16) so their practices can be avoided (vv. 17-23). His closing doxology praises God as the only hope for protection from apostasy (vv. 24-25).

**Synthesis**

**Contending against pretenders**

**1-2 Greeting/blessing**

**3-16 Pretenders' practice**

3-4 Purpose of epistle: defend the faith

3 Original intention

4 Present intention

5-7 Old Testament pretenders

5 Israelites in wilderness

6 Chained angels

7 Sodom, Gomorrah, nearby towns

8-13 Characteristics

8-10 Speech rejects authorities

11a Religion devised

11b Greed

11c Rebellion

12-13 Destructive lifestyle

14-16 Future judgment

**17-23 How to avoid pretenders' snares**

17-19 Remember apostolic predictions

20-21 Nurture oneself in God's love

20a Study Scriptures

20b Prayer

21 Look for rapture

22-23 Show mercy to pretenders' followers

**24-25 Praise for preservation from apostasy**

**What is the Gospel?**

(1 of 2)

*Recently an evening school student wrote to ask why it took Christ’s blood to pay for our sin. With all the false gospels around today, his question reminded me of Jude’s exhortation for Christians “to contend for the faith” (v. 3). Yet how can we contend for something we don’t even understand? So below is my reply to his sincere and vital question (slightly edited).*

What a great question you asked. I agree that too few of us stop long enough to evaluate why Christ had to die for us. We must accept it as a fact to be saved, but I think it shows maturity on your part to ask the “why” question. I'll try to answer your question in as simple words as possible.

Part of the answer relates to the balance in God between His love on one side and His perfection and fairness on the other.

Here's the problem...

God is perfect. This means He cannot stand sin. And the result for us is we cannot enter His presence with our sin. And because He is fair He must judge sin (require a penalty) so we all owe a debt to Him for our sin.

What is the penalty God requires? Our sin doesn't just separate us from a perfect God a little, so the penalty God requires for our sin is death (Rom. 6:23). This is what the Bible means when it says that His fairness can only be satisfied with the shedding of blood (death is what we all deserve).

Capital crimes deserve capital punishment. Most of the time people don't think of themselves as having committed a capital crime like murder, but we all have. We look at ourselves in comparison to one another—and we generally compare ourselves to the worst people! This way we don't look so bad.

That works fine on a human plane when we are only trying to legislate society to the degree that everyone doesn't kill each other. But when we're talking about an issue of going to heaven and being with a holy God forever we must compare ourselves to this holy God! And He says that every one of us doesn’t measure up (Rom. 3:23).

When we see things this way we finally realize that we are in an awful predicament. We really are in bad shape–even the best of us!

Here's the solution...

There's good news though! God also loves us, so how can He show His love and yet not compromise His fairness? He in His love provides a way for His fair demands to be met with a substitute for us. God allows a substitute to take the penalty we deserve (Rom. 5:8).

Can a substitute really take our place? If I killed someone, would the government allow someone else to die by hanging instead of me? I can't answer this for Singapore law. Perhaps no one has ever volunteered before! But in some societies the demands of the law do not require that the one who takes the penalty be the one who committed the crime. In such cases a substitute is allowed.

So “without the shedding of blood there is no forgiveness” (Heb. 9:22). This has always been true. In OT times the blood spilled was the blood of a lamb. The worshipper placed his hand on the head of the animal and he killed it himself. Read Leviticus 1 and you'll see that it wasn't the priest who did the actual killing. This was a graphic way to show the worshipper that sin has a price.

Of course, we now know that an OT lamb ultimately pointed to Jesus as the final sacrifice for sin. This is why Revelation 4 calls Jesus the “Lamb” with a capital “L.”

**What is the Gospel? (2 of 2)**

How was Jesus the ultimate sacrifice? For one, He was greater than man (lambs are lower in God's eyes than people, the crown of His creation). He was God and man simultaneously so He could bear the sin of man perfectly to satisfy the justice (fairness) of God.

Another difference is that lambs actually never sinned. There is something innocent about little, cute lambs–perhaps because they have not been tainted by sin. Only humans can sin since only humans have a conscience and an ability to choose between right and wrong. And every human has failed–all have sinned.

But Jesus was the only person that was fully human and yet without sin. He's the only one who ever passed the sin test–being tried and found innocent in every respect. Had Christ committed even one sin, He would have had to die for that sin. This would have disqualified Him from bearing our sin.

But praise God, Jesus never did commit His first sin. This allowed Him, if He died, to die for those that were under the penalty of sin. So He chose to die for us, satisfying our debt to God's fairness and simultaneously demonstrating God's love.

Isn't that the most wonderful news you have ever heard? It was to me! Now God says that for Christ's blood to apply to us we simply accept this by faith.

Why can't Christ's blood apply to everyone–even to those without faith? If He died for the whole world, why then isn't the whole world saved from the penalty of death? In OT times, the person had to express his faith to God. This was done through offering a lamb at the temple. In like manner, today faith must be expressed for forgiveness to come.

But how is faith expressed? The New Testament doesn't prescribe only one way to express faith. Typically people express faith in Christ through prayer, but the NT never actually gives us a specific prayer to use. Nevertheless, I think that prayer is probably the best way to show God that we want Christ's blood to apply to us.

What should that prayer include? Tell God you trust (believe) that Christ died for you and you want His forgiveness. This is called accepting Him as Saviour (substitute for your sin). Included in this is what the NT calls “repentance,” which literally means a “change of mind” concerning what you are trusting to save you from the penalty of sin. Don't trust your good works, church attendance, baptism, or anything else since none of these takes care of your basic problem: sin.

Sounds simple, right? Many think it's *too* simple–and they reject it for being too easy. In reality it is not hard at all, unless it is hard to humble yourself to the point of admitting that you can do absolutely nothing to save yourself! Notice that all these false ways people use to try to reach God (some listed above) are accomplished by us–and that can lead to pride. This is why Ephesians 2:8-9 says, “For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that is not of yourselves. It is the gift of God, not as a result of works, so that no one can boast.” There's no such thing as a proud person in heaven.

So, are you sure you have accepted the real gospel explained above? Have you expressed your trust in Christ in this manner before? If not, may I urge you to do it even today? Be sure to let me know about it.

Your friend in Christ,

Rick

PS: You may have noticed that most verses cited above are from the Book of Romans. Since this is the best full-length explanation of the gospel in the NT, I recommend you study it. The best short explanation of how the gospel is Christ’s death and resurrection for us is 1 Corinthians 15:1-11.

**Be Fighting**

***Jude***

**Exegetical Outline (Steps 2-3)**

# *Exegetical Idea*: The way to defend the faith against pretenders infiltrating the Church is to defend the holiness of the church.

# I. The way to defend the faith against pretenders is to affirm and bless believers (1-2).

## Jude, the half-brother of Jesus Christ and full-brother of James, identifies himself as author and affirms his recipients as predestined, beloved and eternally secure believers (1).

### Jude, the half-brother of Jesus Christ and full-brother of James, wrote the epistle (1a).

### An unknown group of predestined, loved and eternally secure believers are the recipients (1b-d).

#### These believers are predestined by being called and chosen by God (1b).

#### God the Father loved these believers with an incomprehensible, unconditional love (1c).

#### These believers have been kept eternally secure by Jesus Christ and will continue to be saved [perfect tense] (1d).

## Jude wishes for his recipients graces of mercy, peace and love to be multiplied in their lives because of the stiff opposition they are facing from pretenders (2).

### Mercy is the first grace to be multiplied as God's protection from merciless pretenders (2a).

### Peace is wished upon the readers in the midst of their war against false teachers (2b).

### Love from God is wished upon the readers as protection and assurance in their trials (2c).

# II. The way to defend the faith against pretenders is by heeding Jude’s warning where he illustrates and describes them (3-16).

## Defend the faith against pretenders who infiltrate the church (3-4).

### Jude changed his original intent of writing on salvation to defending the truth (3).

#### His original purpose was to write on the salvation he shared with his readers (3a).

#### After learning that his readers faced apostates among them, and through the Spirit's leading, Jude changed his theme to defend doctrinal truth (3b).

### Jude changed his original purpose to write because prophesied (e.g., Isa. 8:19-22; cf. Jer. 5:12-14) unbelieving pretenders infiltrated the church (4).

## Be aware of three OT pretenders so you can avoid them (5-7).

### Of the two million Israelites delivered from Egypt, some did not believe God and thus were pretenders like those of whom Jude warns (5; cf. Korah, v. 11 in Num. 16).

### Some demons that possessed rulers who seduced women [Gen. 6:1-4] are now punished and awaiting judgment to illustrate the pretenders' end in hell (6).

### Sodom, Gomorrah, and nearby towns, who were judged for homosexuality, show that pretenders will suffer eternal fire (7).

## Note the godless behavior of pretenders to avoid them and their practices (8-13).

### Their speech rejects all authorities, including angelic ones, unlike Michael's refusal to dispute with Satan over Moses' body (8-10).

#### They pollute their bodies and reject authorities, even speaking against angelic authorities (8).

#### These men should never slander angels since Michael did not dispute with Satan over where Moses' body would be buried but left the matter in God's hands (9).

##### These men should never slander angels since even Michael did not argue with Satan, chief of the fallen angels, over where Moses' body is buried (9a).

##### Instead of arguing with Satan, Michael left the matter in God's hands [9b, as recorded in the Pseudepigrapha book, *The Assumption of Moses*].

#### The pretenders slander angels whom they don't understand and, like unreasoning animals, are destroyed by practices whose effects they know full well (10).

### Their religion will kill others as Cain killed his brother Abel [Gen. 4:8] (11a).

### Their greed resembles Balaam’s claim to speak for God, but actual motive for money [Num. 22] (11b).

### Their rebellion is against leaders whom God designated like the rebellion Korah led against Moses so they will also suffer death [Num. 16] (11c).

### Nature graphically illustrates the destructive lifestyles of the pretenders to warn us to avoid their practices (12-13).

#### Like hidden reefs that wreck ships before they are detected, pretenders even join in the most intimate church celebrations while they destroy it within (12a).

#### Like shepherds who feed themselves rather than the sheep, these leaders seek only their own desires (12b).

#### Like clouds seemingly filled but waterless and blown around, these men appear saintly but have no teaching for thirsty souls (12c).

#### Like trees lacking the expected autumn fruit, they lack Christian character but are dead in their sins and will experience eternal separation from God (12d).

#### Like waves of the sea that direct ships nowhere, these men give no helpful or edifying guidance but instead practice shameful actions (13a).

#### Like “shooting stars” moving across the sky and vanishing without light or direction, these men lead unwary followers astray from God's truth to hell (13b).

## See the future judgment of pretenders for their selfishness to avoid them (14-16).

### Enoch prophesied the judgment of pretenders to occur at Christ’s Second Coming to warn people to avoid them (14-15).

#### Enoch, accurately quoted by the Pseudepigrapha *Book of Enoch* [1:9], prophesied of the pretenders' judgment to guard believers from them (14a).

#### At Christ’s Second Coming with saints and angels, he will judge these men for their ungodly actions and words spoken against him (14b-15).

### Their selfish lifestyles show us to recognize and avoid them (16).

#### They complain about difficulties rather than rejoice in them (16a).

#### They find fault in others rather than encourage them (16b).

#### They lust for their own, sensual advantage rather than serve others (16c).

#### They boast about their own achievements rather than praise others (16d).

#### They flatter others for special favors rather than minister to them unselfishly (16e).

# III. The way to defend against pretenders is by being holy through three key spiritual disciplines (17-23).

## *Remember* the apostles predicted these men so you won’t be led astray (17-19).

### The apostles warned about pretenders so we could recognize and avoid them (17; cf. 2 Peter 3:1f.).

### The apostles warned that pretenders would be scoffing, selfish, divisive, sensual and void of the Spirit (18-19).

#### They scoff at the things which God and believers hold sacred (18a).

#### They are led by desires that a godly person resists (18b).

#### They divide the church into various camps with competing leaders, doctrines and emphases (19a).

#### They follow sensual instincts without restraint (19b).

#### They do not have the indwelling ministry of the Spirit as believers do (19c).

## *Nurture yourself* in God's love by studying the Bible, praying as the Spirit prays, and looking for the Rapture—all to protect from pretender wiles (20-21).

### Nurture yourself in God's love by studying the holy faith as revealed in the Scriptures to protect yourself from the wiles of the pretenders (20a).

### Nurture yourself in God's love by praying in the power of the Spirit in fellowship with God so the Spirit's thoughts are your thoughts (20b).

### Nurture yourself in God's love by eagerly anticipating his mercy to be shown when he removes us from the earth at the Rapture to begin our eternal life in his presence (21).

## *Show mercy* to the followers of the pretenders by encouraging them and witnessing to them while at the same time watching that you do not fall into their errors (22-23).

### Show mercy on and encourage, rather than slander or accuse, believers confused by the pretenders (22).

### Share Christ with unbelievers following the pretenders rather than joining pretenders in eternal fire in Hell (23a).

### Show mercy to other pretender followers to guard from becoming defiled by them like a disease that easily spreads from a dirty garment (23b).

# IV. Praise God as the Source of victory over apostasy who will alone make us sinless and secure our salvation by God's unlimited resources (24-25).

## Praise God as the only one who can keep us from apostasy so we know that only God will make us blameless in heaven (24).

### Praise God as the only one who can keep us from apostasy (24a).

### Praise God alone that he will present us before him in heaven sinless and with great joy to encourage us to live for God now (24b).

## Honor God alone as the only Savior with unlimited resources for all time to encourage that his unlimited resources can protect us from apostasy (25).

**Purpose or Desired Listener Response (Step 4)**

The listeners will fight for the gospel.

**Homiletical Outline** (Cyclical inductive form)

# Introduction

### Interest: Are you a fighter?

### Need: Believers have failed to fight apostasy the past 200+ years.

### Subject: How can you defend the faith against pretenders?

### Background: Jude told the Christians about AD 75 to fight for the faith.

### Preview: Today in Jude we will explore four ways to fight pretenders.

### Text: The “email” of Jude is our fighting manual.

(The first way you can defend the faith against pretenders is to...)

# I. Affirm the saints (1-2).

## God himself *calls* us to salvation (1a).

## God himself *loves* us (1b).

## God himself *keeps* us in his forever family (1c).

## God himself *gives* us mercy, peace, and love (2).

# II. Identify the enemy (3-16).

## Defend the faith against pretenders who infiltrate the church (3-4).

### Jude changed his original intent of writing on salvation to defending the truth (3).

### Jude changed his original purpose to write because prophesied (e.g., Isa. 8:19-22; cf. Jer. 5:12-14) unbelieving pretenders infiltrated the church with lawless practices that deny Christ as Lord (4).

## Jude shares three OT pretenders so believers can avoid them (5-7).

### Of the two million Israelites delivered from Egypt, some did not believe God and thus were pretenders like those of whom Jude warns (5; cf. Korah, v. 11 in Num. 16).

### Some fallen angels, after leaving their proper position in heaven to possess rulers who then seduced women [Gen. 6:1-4], are presently chained in punishment to await the Great White Throne Judgment and illustrate the pretenders' end in hell (6).

### Sodom, Gomorrah, and nearby towns, who were judged for homosexuality, show that pretenders will suffer eternal fire (7).

## Jude relates the godless behavior of pretenders so his readers can avoid them and their practices (8-13).

### Their speech rejects all authorities, including angelic ones, unlike Michael's refusal to dispute with Satan over Moses' body (8-10).

### Their religion will kill others as Cain killed his brother Abel [Gen. 4:8] (11a).

### Their greed resembles Balaam’s claim to speak for God, but actual motive for money [Num. 22] (11b).

### Their rebellion is against leaders whom God designated like the rebellion Korah led against Moses so they will also suffer death [Num. 16] (11c).

### Nature graphically illustrates the destructive lifestyles of the pretenders to warn us to avoid their practices (12-13).

## Jude reviews the future judgment of the pretenders for their selfishness so that we can avoid them (14-16).

### Enoch prophesied the judgment of pretenders at Christ’s Second Coming to warn people to avoid them (14-15).

### Their selfish lifestyles show us to recognize and avoid them (16).

#### They complain about difficulties rather than rejoice in them (16a).

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#### They lust for their own, sensual advantage rather than serve others (16c).

#### They boast about their own achievements rather than praise others (16d).

#### They flatter others for special treatment rather than minister to them unselfishly (16e).

# III. Strengthen your faith (17-23).

## *Remember* apostolic predictions of these men and their characteristics so you won’t be led astray (17-19).

### The apostles warned about pretenders so we could recognize and avoid them (17; cf. 2 Peter 3:1f.).

### The apostles warned that pretenders would be scoffing, selfish, divisive, sensual and void of the Spirit (18-19).

## *Nurture yourself* in God's love by studying the Bible, praying as the Spirit prays, and looking for the rapture–all to protect from pretender wiles (20-21).

## *Show mercy* to the followers of the pretenders by encouraging them and witnessing to them while at the same time watching that they not fall into their errors (22-23).

# IV. Praise God for security (24-25).

## Praise God as the only one who can keep us from apostasy so we know that only God will make us blameless in heaven (24).

## Honor God alone as the only Savior with unlimited majesty, strength and dominion through Christ in eternity past, present and future to encourage that His unlimited resources can protect us from apostasy (25).

(So how can you defend the faith against pretenders?)

# Conclusion

### Be a contender against pretenders (MI).

### Four ways to defend against apostasy include (MPs):

#### Affirm the saints (1-2).

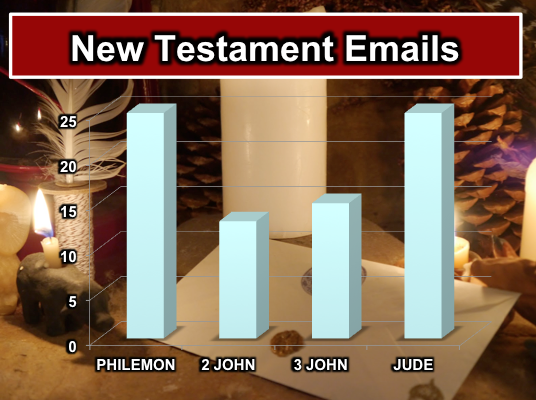
#### Identify the enemy (3-16).

#### Strengthen your faith (17-23).

#### Praise God for security (24-25).

### Do you believe “The Apostle’s Creed”?

### Prayer



**Rick Griffith**

24 July 2016

Message 4 of 4

**How Christians Should Fight**

***The “Email” of Jude***

# Introduction

### Are you a fighter?

### How can you defend the faith against pretenders?

# I. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ the saints (1-2).

## God himself *calls* us to salvation (1a).

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# II. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ the enemy (3-16).

## Defend the faith against pretenders who infiltrate the church (3-4).

### Jude changed his original intent of writing on salvation to defending the truth (3).

### Jude changed his original purpose to write because prophesied (e.g., Isa. 8:19-22; cf. Jer. 5:12-14) unbelieving pretenders infiltrated the church with lawless practices that deny Christ as Lord (4).

## Jude shares three OT pretenders so believers can avoid them (5-7).

### Of the two million Israelites delivered from Egypt, some did not believe God and thus were pretenders like those of whom Jude warns (5; cf. Korah, v. 11 in Num. 16).

### Some fallen angels, after leaving their proper position in heaven to possess rulers who then seduced women [Gen. 6:1-4], are presently chained in punishment to await the Great White Throne Judgment and illustrate the pretenders' end in hell (6).

### Sodom, Gomorrah, and nearby towns, who were judged for homosexuality, show that pretenders will suffer eternal fire (7).

## Jude relates the godless behavior of pretenders so his readers can avoid them and their practices (8-13).

### Their speech rejects all authorities, including angelic ones, unlike Michael's refusal to dispute with Satan over Moses' body (8-10).

### Their religion will kill others as Cain killed his brother Abel [Gen. 4:8] (11a).

### Their greed resembles Balaam’s claim to speak for God, but actual motive for money [Num. 22] (11b).

### Their rebellion is against leaders whom God designated like the rebellion Korah led against Moses so they will also suffer death [Num. 16] (11c).

### Nature graphically illustrates the destructive lifestyles of the pretenders to warn us to avoid their practices (12-13).

## Jude reviews the future judgment of the pretenders for their selfishness so that we can avoid them (14-16).

# III. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ your faith (17-23).

## *Remember* apostolic predictions of these men and their characteristics so you won’t be led astray (17-19).

## *Nurture yourself* in God's love by studying the Bible, praying as the Spirit prays, and looking for the rapture–all to protect from pretender wiles (20-21).

## *Show mercy* to the followers of the pretenders by encouraging them and witnessing to them while at the same time watching that they not fall into their errors (22-23).

# IV. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ God for security (24-25).

(So how can you defend the faith against pretenders?)

# Conclusion

### Be a \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ against pretenders (Main Idea).

### Do you believe “The Apostle’s Creed”?

**Thought Questions**

1. Read Jude aloud. List the pretender characteristics and where you see them today:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Traits** | **Modern Parallels** |
| Text | Text |
| Text | Text |
| Text | Text |
| Text | Text |
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| Text | Text |
| Text | Text |

1. What one thing do you need to do differently to protect yourself and others from people who are “professors but not possessors”?



**Rick Griffith**

5 January 2020

Message 62 of 66

**Be Fighting**

***Jude***

# Introduction

### Are you a fighter?

### How can you defend the faith against pretenders?

# I. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ the saints (1-2).

## God himself *calls* us to salvation (1a).

## God himself *loves* us (1b).

## God himself *keeps* us in his forever family (1c).

## God himself *gives* us mercy, peace, and love (2).

# II. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ the enemy (3-16).

## Defend the faith against pretenders who infiltrate the church (3-4).

## Be aware of three OT pretenders so you can avoid them (5-7).

## Note the godless behavior of pretenders to avoid them and their practices (8-13).

## See the future judgment of pretenders for their selfishness to avoid them (14-16).

# III. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ your faith (17-23).

## *Remember* the apostles predicted these men so you won’t be led astray (17-19).

## *Nurture yourself* in God's love by studying the Bible, praying as the Spirit prays, and looking for the Rapture—all to protect from pretender wiles (20-21).

## *Show mercy* to the followers of the pretenders by encouraging them and witnessing to them while at the same time watching that you do not fall into their errors (22-23).

# IV. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ God for security (24-25).

# Conclusion

### Be a \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ against pretenders (Main Idea).

### Do you believe “The Apostle’s Creed”?

Download this sermon PPT and notes for free at BibleStudyDownloads.org/resource/new-testament-preaching/

Listen to this message online at cicfamily.com/sermon-listing/

**Jude**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Contending Against Pretenders** | | | | | | | | | | |
| **Why to Contend** | | | | | | **How to Contend** | | | | |
| **Intro** | | **Pretender**  **Practices** | | | | **How to Avoid**  **Pretenders’ Snares** | | | **Praise for Preservation** | |
| **Verses 1-2** | | **Verses 3-16** | | | | **Verses 17-23** | | | **Verses 24-25** | |
| Greet-ing  1 | Bless-ing  2 | Purpose of Epistle: Defend the faith  3-4 | OT Pretenders  5-7  (Past) | Charac-teristics  8-13  (Present) | Judgment  14-16  (Future) | Remember Apostles’ Predictions  17-19 | Nurture Oneself in God’s Love  20-21 | Show Mercy to Pretenders’ Followers  22-23 | Source of Victory  24 | Only Savior  25 |
| **Unknown Origin to Probably Israel** | | | | | | | | | | |
| **c. AD 75** | | | | | | | | | | |

**Key Word: Pretenders**

**Key Verse: “…Contend for the faith that was once for all entrusted to the saints. For certain men whose condemnation was written about long ago have secretly slipped in among you. They are godless men, who change the grace of our God into a license for immorality and deny Jesus Christ our only Sovereign and Lord” (Jude 3b-4).**

**Summary Statement: The way to defend the faith against pretenders infiltrating the Church is to defend the holiness of the Church.**

**Application: Do you fight those who introduce godlessness in the church—or do you let them get away with lowering the standard?**