

THE RIGHT KIND OF FAITH (Apostasy Under The Radar)

Jude 15 (NKJV)

“to execute judgment on all, to convict all who are **ungodly** among them of all their **ungodly** deeds which they have committed in an **ungodly** way, and of all the harsh things which **ungodly** sinners have spoken against Him.”

And yet being very UNGODLY Jude says apostates have crept in “unnoticed”.

Jude 4 (NKJV)

4 For certain men have crept in **UNNOTICED**, who long ago were marked out for this condemnation, ungodly men, who turn the grace of our God into lewdness and deny the only Lord God and our Lord Jesus Christ. (Bold emphasis is mine)

How can it be that apostates “have crept in unnoticed” as seen in Jude 4?

Apostates....

Turn grace into a license for immorality (cf. Jude 4).

Deny the Lordship of Christ (cf. Jude 4).

Have known great spiritual privilege (cf. Jude 5-7).

Violate Biblical and moral bounds ordained by God (cf. Jude 5-7).

Reject all God-ordained authority (cf. Jude 8-11).

Are ignorant of spiritual realities and function on a natural plane like animals (Jude 10).

Are defined by man-made religion (cf. Jude 11).

Pretend ministry with the goal of exploiting people (cf. Jude 11, 16).

Brazenly move in the circles of God’s people without fear (cf. Jude 12).

Serve only themselves (cf. Jude 12).

Make big, but empty promises (cf. Jude 12, 16).

Are unrestrained in foaming up shame (cf. Jude 13).

Are momentary and unstable like shooting stars (cf. Jude 13).

Live ungodly, blasphemous lives (cf. Jude 15).

Are habitual grumblers and complainers (cf. Jude 16).

Walk according to their own lusts (cf. Jude 16, 18).

Mock last days’ judgment (cf. Jude 18).

Are sensual, living for the flesh (cf. Jude 19).
Are divisive (cf. Jude 19).

Now, does that sound SUBTLE? How can it be that these types have CREPT IN UNNOTICED? (Jude 4) How can it be that they are like HIDDEN REEFS (spots NKJV) in the Christian love feasts? (Jude 12)

The letter of Jude is a CALL TO DISCERNMENT. It gives a full-frontal look at APOSTASY. Jude says here is what it looks like in all its ugliness. Don't overlook it, but rather EARNESTLY contend against it!

As an antidote against the influence of apostasy, Jude exhorts the reader to keep in mind the words of the APOSTLES who warned of apostates (Jude 17). He exhorts the believer to continually be “**building yourselves up on your most holy faith**” (Jude 20). At the very beginning of the letter, Jude emphasized that THE FAITH was given ONCE FOR ALL (Jude 3).

In effect, Jude is saying that the believer constantly needs to filter everything through the grid of the APOSTLES' DOCTRINE. It is on DOCTRINE that we must build our lives, and we must reject anything that conflicts with it.

Jude is a CALL TO ACTIVELY CONTEND. Apostates aggressively push their agenda! In response, believers must “contend earnestly for the faith”! (Jude 3) There is no place for complacency here! This is the tone of the whole letter of Jude. Jude wanted to write about “our common salvation” but spreading apostasy called for an URGENT response. Apostasy calls for action. To contend earnestly for the faith is to contend earnestly against apostasy.

In the context of APOSTASY, Jude exhorts us to BE DISCERNING by closely adhering to the APOSTLES' DOCTRINE. Apostasy and the Apostles' doctrine are mutually exclusive. However, it is not enough to passively adhere to the Apostles' doctrine. We must CONTEND EARNESTLY FOR IT.

Earnestly contending for the faith means that we must be discerning, and then, we must act on that discernment (cf. Acts 20:31). All of God's people are called to be DEFENDERS OF THE FAITH in the sense of being

**EARNEST CONTENDERS! We must FIGHT the good fight for the FAITH!
It is the stuff of FAITHFULNESS!**