

THE RIGHT KIND OF FAITH (False Teachers Reject Christ's Lordship)

Jude 4 (NKJV) 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.

These men who “have crept in” can properly be called “Creeps”. Amazingly they creep in UNNOTICED. They do so because they come professing GRACE and yet they live immorally. They profess GRACE but deny the LORDSHIP of God and Christ. They follow what is called “antinomianism”.

Antinomianism

As one closely studies 2 Peter 2 the theological word that overall best describes the false teachers in view is ANTINOMIANISM. Compare the parallel passage in Jude 4-16.

“Derived from the Greek words anti, “against,” and nomos, “law,” antinomianism is the belief that being saved by grace rather than works frees Christians from all moral obligations and principles.” – **The Compact Dictionary of Doctrinal Words, pg. 30.**

In other words, this brand of false teacher basically says, “You can live any way you want to live and still be a Christian”. These people know very well the gospel message (cf. 2 Pt. 2:20-22). They are subtle and secretly bring in destructive heresies (2 Pet. 2:1). Note the following two statements that define them.

2 Peter 2:10 (NKJV) “...walk according to the flesh...”

2 Peter 2:19 (NKJV) “....they promise them liberty...”

What characterizes these people is “the flesh” and yet they teach “liberty”. It is a liberty that caters to the flesh. It says you can be a Christian and walk according to the flesh as a pattern of life. They “have known the way of righteousness” and they turned from it (2 Pet. 2:21). Compare “the way of truth” (2:2) and “the right way” (2:15) which they have forsaken. Note Peter’s emphasis on the word “way”. True Christianity ushers in a whole

new WAY of life that is in accordance with Christ as Lord and Savior (cf. 1 Pet. 4:3-5).

REJECTING CHRIST AS LORD AND SAVIOR

The false teachers and their ilk are self-willed (2:10). They deny the Lordship of Christ (2:1). They know full well (intellectually) the truth of Christ as Lord and Savior, but they have rejected Him. Peter points out the way of ESCAPE is through the knowledge of Christ as Lord and Savior (2:20). For Peter, Lord and Savior is a PACKAGE!

The apostolic gospel message at core is the “**knowledge of the Lord and Savior Jesus Christ**”. It is a “holy commandment” that demands a response (2:21).

2 Peter 2:20 (NKJV) “... the knowledge of the Lord and Savior Jesus Christ....”

2 Peter 2:21 (NKJV) “... the way of righteousness...”

These two statements go together as a package! Truly knowing Christ as Lord and Savior results in “the way of righteousness”. The issue here is not how “righteousness” is acquired but rather the reality that true Christianity must issue in a way of righteous conduct.

“Now we can appreciate Peter’s admonition in 2 Peter 1:10 – ‘Wherefore the rather, brethren, give diligence to make your calling and election sure.’ In other words, ‘Has your spiritual experience been genuine?’ It is a startling fact that there are many people in our churches who have never truly been born again, but who are convinced that they are saved and going to heaven! They have had ‘an experience,’ and perhaps look better (like the sow) and feel better (like the dog), [cf. 2 Pt. 2:22] but they have not been *made better* as ‘partakers of the divine nature.’ [cf. 2 Pt. 1:4]” - **Warren W. Wiersbe, The Bible Exposition Commentary – Vol. 2, pg. 461**

If it doesn’t affect your thinking, your hands, and your feet, it isn’t genuine Christianity because it isn’t really a HEART reality!

Romans 10:9–10 (ESV)

9 because, if you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved.

10 For with the heart one believes and is justified, and with the mouth one confesses and is saved.