

Jude 3-4 — Spiritual Terrorists

August 29, 2021

Good morning! Welcome to CrossWinds! This week, everyone is glued to the news. The botched withdrawal of Americans in Afghanistan is hard to believe. There are thousands of American civilians left behind. There are thousands of military personnel left behind. There is millions, probably billions, of dollars worth of expensive military equipment left behind for the Taliban to use or sell. Americans are angry as they watch things unfold. We should be angry. We were told the Taliban was weak. They would be months reinvading. Yet, almost overnight they retook the country to our nation's shame.

This is a wake-up call to the danger of terrorists. It is a wake-up call to the amount of damage terrorists can cause and how quickly they can destroy something if not kept in check. They operate in the shadows. If you let down your guard, they will quickly destroy you from the inside out.

Last week, we began the book of Jude. This book is especially appropriate for our time because it talks about terrorists --- spiritual terrorists that fight behind the scenes in the church. Like ISIS, they dress in plain clothes and blend in. They worm their way into churches to attack them from the inside. They destroy them from the inside and take away the freedom and salvation that is ours in the gospel. Just as the Taliban can take over and destroy a nation if not kept in check, spiritual terrorists take over churches and even entire denominations if not kept in check.

What kind of damage can spiritual terrorists cause? What does one of their takeovers look like? Look at the example of many of the great universities in

our nation. Harvard, Princeton, Dartmouth, Columbia, Brown, and the University of Chicago were all founded to train pastors to spread the gospel in our nation. Today, none of them teach the gospel. They were all taken over by spiritual terrorists who wormed their way onto the faculty and into boards. Then they moved those universities away from the gospel, destroying the university's purpose.

The book of Jude is a call for us to contend for the faith that was once for all delivered to the saints and to not let spiritual terrorists take over the church, like our nation allowed Islamic terrorists to take over Afghanistan.

Last week, we studied the background of this letter and learned a bit about Jude. We learned he knew Jesus well. He was the half-brother of Jesus. We also studied the opening greeting of the letter where we learned that in the battle to maintain the truth in the church, we have an amazing promise from God. We are spiritually bulletproof. That doesn't mean we won't be wounded in the battle. It doesn't mean we won't take hits in the battle. Our relationship with God through Jesus is secure. We are called by God the Father, loved by God the Father, and kept by Jesus in the battle.

This morning, we continue our study with the next two verses in Jude, verses 3 and 4.

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. 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. Jude 3–4 (ESV)

Before we look at these verses, I want to take a moment to look at the structure of the letter.

The Structure of the Letter

In the first century, the Roman world spent a lot of time writing letters. People spent a great deal of time carefully crafting their communication. The ancient art of how you crafted your letters is called rhetoric. When we look at the letter of Jude, we find it is carefully put together using a common rhetorical strategy in the ancient world.

In Roman rhetoric, you began with a greeting. The greeting in Jude is the verses we studied last week. The next part of the rhetorical template was to state the reason you wrote the letter and what you hoped to accomplish with the letter. If we look at verses 3 and 4, which are the verses we just read, that is exactly what we find. Verse 4 gives the reason for the letter, which is the slipping into the church of false teachers, spiritual terrorists. To meet that challenge, Jude gave us a single objective in verse 3 of what he hoped to accomplish with his letter, which was that we would be emboldened to contend for the truth of the gospel in the church when spiritual terrorists are trying to take it away.

Understanding how ancient rhetoric works and how it structured ancient letter writing also helps us understand the rest of the letter.

The next part of the rhetorical template was the point of persuasion. The writer was to give examples of the objective they were attempting to accomplish. That is exactly what we find in verses 5-16. There we find eight or nine examples from history that Jude gave us to show us the terrifying danger of walking away

from God's Word and disobeying God's commands. Jude hoped that would motivate us to contend for the faith instead of drifting away from the faith.

The last part of the rhetorical template was a call to action. At the beginning of the letter, the writer was to summarize his call to action. At the end of the letter, the writer was to give more details on his call to action. In Jude, that is exactly what we find. Verses 17-23 are more details on how to contend for the faith delivered to the saints.

Understanding how ancient rhetoric works and what each part of the letter was to accomplish helps us better understand the purpose Jude was trying to accomplish.

The Theme of the Letter

Jude was not the only writer in the Bible to remind us of the importance of defending the truth of the gospel against people who would distort it. Paul talked about it often.

O Timothy, guard the deposit entrusted to you. Avoid the irreverent babble and contradictions of what is falsely called "knowledge..." 1 Timothy 6:20 (ESV)

"Timothy, don't leave the gospel message that was given to you. It was entrusted to you. Don't leave it for what some people falsely call special knowledge. That is hidden knowledge from God that nobody but a small group of people knows."

By the Holy Spirit who dwells within us, guard the good deposit entrusted to you. 2 Timothy 1:14 (ESV)

"Timothy, guard the truth given to you. It was put on safe deposit with you. Guard it; don't lose it." The phrase "good deposit" is used of putting something into the safety deposit box in the bank so nothing happens to it. That is the way

Timothy was to guard the truth of the gospel. What is that truth? It is the truth that we are saved by grace alone, by faith alone, by Jesus alone and the gospel message is found in the Bible alone. Timothy had to guard that truth. He had to maintain that truth. He was to fight all attempts from people to change that truth. He was not to let the spiritual terrorists slip into the church and take people away from the truth.

...and what you have heard from me in the presence of many witnesses entrust to faithful men, who will be able to teach others also. 2 Timothy 2:2 (ESV)

Here is the idea that Timothy must not only carefully guard the truth of the gospel but that he was to pass it to faithful and trustworthy men in the next generation who would also protect it.

Paul said that Timothy wasn't the only one who was to guard the truth of the gospel but that the church is also to be the guardian and the caretaker of this truth.

...if I delay, you may know how one ought to behave in the household of God, which is the church of the living God, a pillar and buttress of the truth. 1 Timothy 3:15 (ESV)

The church is to be the pillar and foundation of truth in this world. Walk into the church, you should be able to find the truth. Not just any truth, but the most important truth in the world --- the truth of the gospel. God loves us. Jesus died for us. We are saved from God's wrath by faith and trust in Jesus alone. That is what you should always be able to find in the church.

When we come to Jude, we see that spiritual terrorists have crept into the church. Having infiltrated the church, they are trying to create doubt in people's minds about the gospel truth in hopes of pulling people away from the gospel

truth. If they can do that, they can destroy the church by attacking it from the inside as they destroy people's confidence in the one thing that can save them.

For certain people have crept in unnoticed... Jude 4 (ESV)

These are hidden reefs at your love feasts, as they feast with you without fear... Jude 12 (ESV)

Jude said, "They are in the church celebrating the Lord's Supper with you. They are sitting next to you in church. Even though they are trying to destroy you, they have no fear on their faces. They are like hidden reefs." What is that?

Sometimes corals reefs rise in the ocean. Some reefs become so large near land that they exist just below the waves. A boat sailing near an island at full speed can run into them. The reef will tear the bottom of the boat open and sink the ship. The sailor never saw it coming because the reef was just below the waves. That is the mental picture Jude gave us of how these spiritual terrorists work.

"They are trying to destroy you by taking you away from the gospel, and most of you don't even see it coming."

Let's begin studying the text.

We share a common salvation from God's judgment.

Beloved, although I was very eager to write to you about our common salvation... Jude 3 (ESV)

This may appear like a throw-away introduction. It is not. Let me take a moment to explain some of the significance of what Jude said. He said we have been given a common salvation. Salvation is a big word. It is a good word. We often think of it as a synonymous word to being a Christian, and in many ways it is. We ask people, "Are you saved?" By that we simply mean, "Are you a Christian?" That is the right use of the word saved, but it is an incomplete use of

the word. The word “saved” carries more freight than we realize. It doesn’t just mean we are Christians, it literally means we are being saved from something.

The rest of the letter of Jude tells us what we are being saved from. We are being saved from the wrath of God that each of us deserves because of our sin. We may not sense this, but Jude 24 reminds us that God is the only one who can save us.

Now to him who is able to keep you from stumbling and to present you blameless before the presence of his glory with great joy... Jude 24 (ESV)

God’s salvation, that is offered to us through Jesus, is the only way to be saved from the judgement of God that everyone deserves to face for our sin.

Salvation is good news!

What doesn’t God’s wrath for our sin look like? Jude gives us a few snapshots of what God’s wrath looks like. If you were with us a few years ago when we did a series that was a guided tour of hell, you will remember these descriptions. The Bible describes God’s wrath for our sin as fire and darkness.

This is what Jesus saves us from. The only way for us to be saved by Jesus is for us to fully trust in Jesus. This is why leaving Jesus or spiritual terrorists taking the church away from Jesus is such a deadly proposition.

Look how Jude described God’s wrath as fire and darkness.

And the angels who did not stay within their own position of authority, but left their proper dwelling, he has kept in eternal chains under gloomy darkness until the judgment of the great day... Jude 6 (ESV)

...just as Sodom and Gomorrah and the surrounding cities, which likewise indulged in sexual immorality and pursued unnatural desire, serve as an example by undergoing a punishment of eternal fire. Jude 7 (ESV)

...wild waves of the sea, casting up the foam of their own shame; wandering stars, for whom the gloom of utter darkness has been reserved forever. Jude 13 (ESV)

...save others by snatching them out of the fire; to others show mercy with fear, hating even the garment stained by the flesh. Jude 23 (ESV)

Who is this salvation available to? It is available to all of us. Jude called it a common salvation. It is open wide to anyone who will come to Jesus. It is available to anyone who will put their trust and hope in Jesus to be saved from their sin.

While God's salvation is offered to everyone, it is common. It is only found in one person. It is found in Jesus alone. To claim salvation for our sin is found in anyone or anything other than Jesus is to destroy the only salvation we can find in Jesus. This is why Jude was so bent out of shape against the spiritual terrorists who slipped into the church and were taking away people's confidence in the exclusive ability of Jesus to save their lives and bring them to God. If you no longer fully trust in Jesus, you will not be saved by Jesus.

We must fight for the faith delivered once for all.

...I found it necessary to write appealing to you to contend for the faith that was once for all delivered to the saints. Jude 3 (ESV)

Sometimes we hear that the Christian faith didn't develop until a hundred or more years after Jesus died as traditions began to form and the church took on structure. That simply isn't true. The Christian faith is not something man made up late in history. It began the moment Jesus rose from the dead, three days after he died. Jude is incredibly clear. The knowledge of what Jesus did for us was not made up by us. It was delivered to us. It was given to us by God. The idea of being saved by grace alone, by faith alone, and by Jesus alone is not

something a human being made up. God told that to us. God revealed that to us. This is why we have no right to change the gospel message or to leave the gospel message. It is not our message. We do not have the right to edit it or change it. If we change the gospel message, we are twisting God's words, which is a scary thing to do.

When Paul wrote to the church in Corinth, it was also struggling to stay faithful to God's gospel. People didn't believe in the resurrection. Look how Paul wrote to them.

Now I would remind you, brothers, of the gospel I preached to you, which you received, in which you stand, and by which you are being saved, if you hold fast to the word I preached to you—unless you believed in vain. For I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received: that Christ died for our sins in accordance with the Scriptures, that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures... 1 Corinthians 15:1–4 (ESV)

First, Paul made clear that the gospel message that they needed to hold onto was the way they were saved. They were only saved by holding onto that message. If they left God's gospel for another gospel made up by man, they would not be saved. Paul could say this because he didn't make up the gospel message. He received it. At that point, Paul began to remind them of the gospel truths he received.

Jude also said this gospel message is "once for all." That means it is complete. There are no later additions or changes coming. All the revelation God will give us about how to be saved by Jesus and how to live in a relationship with Jesus is already given to us in the Bible.

How many of you have a phone? How many times a week do the apps on your phone update? It happens all the time. Developers find mistakes in their

code and fix their mistakes and update their programs constantly. It doesn't work that way with the gospel. God delivered it to us perfectly and completely the first time. There are no updates coming. It is a gospel that is once for all.

The problem is that in our culture people always want updates. They are looking for something new. The idea of holding to a gospel message that was delivered in the past and was perfect when it was given so it never needs to be updated and never needs to be improved upon is foreign to the thinking of most people.

Most people approach their religious beliefs in an eclectic way. They take a little bit of truth about Jesus. They take a little truth from Buddhism and from Mohammed and they mix it all together like they are shuffling a deck of cards. They think the more religious truth they can learn from the different religions of the world, the more about God they will learn in this world. That is not true. It doesn't work that way. God's salvation is common. It is available to all but it is only found in Jesus. Anything added to Jesus or anyone that pulls you away from Jesus destroys the only hope of salvation offered to us in this world. Remember Jude said our salvation was delivered to us by God, not made up by man. The salvation delivered to us is once for all. If somebody comes along later in history and says they have improved on it, they are from Satan and trying to pull you away from God. They are spiritual terrorists.

This reminds me of the Mormon Church. It came along along roughly 2,000 years after the Bible and says the Bible is insufficient. "You don't just need the Bible, but you need something beside the Bible. You need the Book of

Mormon which are new words from God that supersede the Bible's words about God." That is bologna. That is the work of a spiritual terrorist trying to take you away from Jesus and the once-for-all salvation given to us from God. Look what the Mormon wiki site says about its beliefs:

God continues to reveal guidance and commandments to help his faithful followers avoid the difficulties of the world and build His Kingdom on earth....The Mormon Church has an "open canon of scripture."¹

Mormons do not believe Jude. They do not believe God's salvation was given to us through Jesus once and for all. They want to supplement it, to change it. They also claim to have an open canon of scripture. That means they believe they can add books to the Bible, like the Book of Mormon. For 2,000 years, the church has believed in a closed canon of Scripture. That means we believe that after Jesus and the New Testament, God has not given us additional Bible books because Jesus is our once-for-all salvation.

The only conclusion possible is that the Mormon Church is a group spiritual terrorists. These are the people Jude warned us about. If you know the Mormon Church, it works hard to try to look like a legitimate Christian church. It tries to worm its way into denominational gatherings and Christian public recognition to lead Christians astray.

This is why we keep our fingers in the text of the Bible at CrossWinds. This is why we don't have a Book of Mormon or a Pearl of Great Price or other books to correct the Bible or supplement the Bible. We believe Jude that the gospel was delivered once for all to us from God and it is found in God's book.

¹ <https://www.mormonwiki.com/Revelation>

The Occasion for the Letter

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. Jude 4 (ESV)

Apostasy penetrates.

For certain people have crept in unnoticed... Jude 4 (ESV)

The Greek word translated as “crept” is only used here in the New Testament. It has the idea of being sneaky and underhanded. Outside of the Bible, it is used in Greek literature to describe the cleverness of a lawyer sneaking into the mind of a jury or a judge to corrupt their clear thinking on a matter of justice. The word crept therefore means to secretly sneak into people’s minds to corrupt their thinking with evil intent.

Second Peter warns of these types of people.

But false prophets also arose among the people, just as there will be false teachers among you, who will secretly bring in destructive heresies, even denying the Master who bought them, bringing upon themselves swift destruction. 2 Peter 2:1 (ESV)

There are many false teachers outside the church who are very public in their hatred of Christianity. They teach lies and deception. They are easy to recognize. The ones that are far more dangerous are the ones who claim to belong to the church. They are inside of the church. They are like Edward Snowdens. They get into the fabric of the church. They get involved wherever they can. They ingratiate themselves to people in the church, then they spread their subtle but lethal poison.

They write books. They get on the radio. They have podcasts. They get into the schools to corrupt young minds. They get into denominational leadership.

They advocate for abortion. They accept homosexuality and attempt to ordain homosexual clergy. They are devastating. They destroy churches and denominations from the inside. These people were in Jude's day and are in our day.

Thomas Manton, a Puritan from the 1600s described them this way. He says they are like worms in the body that devour a person's entrails and eat a person's heart. That is visual. That will stick with you. That is what spiritual terrorists do.

Jesus also prophesied about this.

Beware of false prophets, who come to you in sheep's clothing but inwardly are ravenous wolves. You will recognize them by their fruits. Are grapes gathered from thorn bushes, or figs from thistles? Matthew 7:15–16 (ESV)

There are two things to notice. They will come to you in sheep's clothing. That means they will be dressed as prophets. Prophets typically wore a wool garment. So what this means is they will look the part of being a religious leader. They will look like a spiritual authority but they are a fake, a shame. They have no authority. They just want to destroy the sheep once they are with the sheep.

In addition, we should notice that Jesus, just like Jude, told us how to recognize them. We recognize them by their fruits. We recognize them by their lifestyle. If they have a false belief about Jesus Christ on the inside, we will be able to see the fruit of their false beliefs on the outside of their lives.

Paul also warned about this in Acts 20.

I know that after my departure fierce wolves will come in among you, not sparing the flock; and from among your own selves will arise men speaking twisted things, to draw away the disciples after them. Acts 20:29–30 (ESV)

There is the same idea here. Spiritual terrorists will arise in the church and will try to lead people astray from Jesus alone.

If we look at the New Testament, we find the Galatians were infiltrated by apostates, so were the Colossians. First, 2, 3 John are also about avoiding apostates who were trying to infiltrate the churches to take people away from Jesus.

If anyone comes to you and does not bring this teaching, do not receive him into your house or give him any greeting, for whoever greets him takes part in his wicked works. 2 John 10–11 (ESV)

These are great instructions on how to handle the Jehovah's Witnesses that come to your door. Don't bother to let them in. They are not there to listen to you or to learn from you but to creep into your mind and sow seeds of doubt. That is what they are trained to do. They are spiritual terrorists. They have left the gospel. They do not have a teaching that will save.

So the first thing we must remember is apostates try to penetrate the church. They try to sneak into the church. They try to add to the gospel message, like the Mormon Church did. They try to subtract from the gospel message, like we see in the Corinthian church, where they denied the resurrection.

People don't like hearing that churches need to be protective. They don't like hearing that we should avoid fellowshiping with other churches and that we should protect ourselves from some of the teaching in other churches. The general message we hear in America is for all churches to get along. We hear that all denominations are the same. No. That is not true. It matters what the church you go to teaches. You must go to a church that teaches the historic Christian faith, not a faith that has been twisted and destroyed by apostates that

are now in denominations that pay for abortions, endorse same-sex marriage and don't teach the Bible as authoritative.

The condemnation of apostates was predicted.

...who long ago were designated for this condemnation... Jude 4 (ESV)

This is an interesting statement. Immediately after identifying the apostates, Jude predicted their end. They were long beforehand marked out for condemnation. The Greek literally says their judgment was preprogrammed. It was written about in advance. That is to say they were ordained by God for judgment and condemnation. There was no need to save them and rescue them. By rejecting the gospel, God marked them out for judgment.

Jude also talked about this later.

It was also about these that Enoch, the seventh from Adam, prophesied, saying, "Behold, the Lord comes with ten thousands of his holy ones, to execute judgment on all and to convict all the ungodly of all their deeds of ungodliness that they have committed in such an ungodly way, and of all the harsh things that ungodly sinners have spoken against him." Jude 14–15 (ESV)

Jude said this goes way back, all the way back to Enoch, the seventh from Adam. God has been telling us that his wrath will be coming on the ungodly people and their ungodly ways. We will study the specifics of this when we get to verse 14 in our study.

Years ago, when I was a youth pastor, a pastor in the United Methodist Church had his wife divorce him. Everyone felt sorry for him. Then it came out that he was a practicing homosexuality and his wife couldn't stand it any more. As you can imagine, it caused quite a stir in the community. There were church meetings. There was debate in the church. The outcome of the meetings was that the church kept the pastor, even though he was a practicing homosexual.

One elderly women, who later came to our church, told me about what she did in one meeting. She stood up and held the Bible in one hand and the United Methodist Book of Discipline in the other hand. She said, "We need to make a choice what we believe. The Bible that has never changed or the United Methodist Book of Discipline from our denomination where a new set of teachings comes out every year. What we decide will determine how God will judge us." She was right. As a church, they made the wrong choice.

That pastor didn't just lead himself into condemnation, but he led the rest of his church into condemnation, destroying them before God when he left the historic Christian faith. This is the condemnation Jude spoke about. God has been warning people for a long time that he will condemn those who leave his Word and pursue an ungodly life.

Listen to what Peter said about the same thing.

And in their greed they will exploit you with false words. Their condemnation from long ago is not idle, and their destruction is not asleep. For if God did not spare angels when they sinned, but cast them into hell and committed them to chains of gloomy darkness to be kept until the judgment; if he did not spare the ancient world, but preserved Noah, a herald of righteousness, with seven others, when he brought a flood upon the world of the ungodly; if by turning the cities of Sodom and Gomorrah to ashes he condemned them to extinction, making them an example of what is going to happen to the ungodly; 2 Peter 2:3–6 (ESV)

The point is that if God brought such incredible judgement when people and angels pursued ungodliness in the past, what makes us think we will escape incredible judgement if we pursue ungodly ways in the present or future?

Jude said that when we contend for the faith, we must not be afraid to point out God's clear condemnation of those who have left the faith. We are not condemning these people. God is the one who has condemned these people.

Apostates are recognized by their ungodly character.

...ungodly people... Jude 4 (ESV)

In this letter, Jude consistently loved to call the apostates ungodly. In other words, they are without god. They may claim to belong to God. They may claim to represent God and to speak for God, but they have no connection with God. They are godless. Look how Jude drove this point home in verse 15.

...to execute judgment on all and to convict all the ungodly of all their deeds of ungodliness that they have committed in such an ungodly way, and of all the harsh things that ungodly sinners have spoken against him. Jude 15 (ESV)

Just because people use Christian phrases, sing Christian songs, and quote a Bible verse does not mean we should automatically be confident in their faith. Last night, I looked at the Christian book catalog sent to our home in the mail. Half of the books were written by people sketchy in their faith --- T.D. Jakes, Joel Osteen, Joyce Meyer, and others. They are mixed in with good solid Christian books. How is the average person to know the difference? This is the work of spiritual terrorists who are slipping their false teachings into book distributors and leading Christians astray.

The Greek word Jude used to describe them is *asebia*. It literally means without connection to God. The word was used in the early church to refer to atheists and heretic. There is no genuine connection with God in their lives. They simply play the religion game.

One example of this is Dr. Larycia Hawkins. She was a political science professor at Wheaton College, one of the premier Christian colleges in the nation. In 2016 she wore a head-scarf to class to look like a Muslim woman. Later she wrote on her Facebook page that she believes Muslims and Christians

worship the same God. After someone took a screenshot of the post, she was toast. Wheaton placed her on administrative leave and eventually fired her, as they should have. Jude would have called her an apostate. She is a spiritual terrorist. She is not a Christian. She pretended to be a Christian so she could teach at Wheaton then slowly lead students away from the gospel and teach them that Muslims and Christians are the same.²

Apostates are recognized by their sensual lives.

...who pervert the grace of our God into sensuality... Jude 4 (ESV)

These people take God's grace and make it an excuse for sensuality. This is the Greek word *aselgia*. It means devotion to sensual pleasure. It is an addition to sensual pleasure that expresses itself in illicit and inappropriate ways such as excessive drinking and sexual permissiveness outside of the marriage covenant. In other words, "If it feels good, do it. Don't wait until you are married. Don't restrain yourself if you are married." They justify it by God's grace. "Don't worry about the sin. Jesus always forgives sin."

The reason apostates who really do not know God act this way is because when they do not know God, they do not have heart that desperately want to please God. As Christians, we live for pleasure but our greatest pleasure is to be pleasing to Jesus. Our greatest pleasure is looking forward to the day we will be rewarded for how we live by Jesus. Apostates, who do not genuinely know God, do not have the desire to please Jesus and be rewarded by Jesus when they stand before him as their greater goal. All they know is pleasure in this world so that is why all they live for is pleasure in this world.

² https://www.huffpost.com/entry/wheaton-college-christianity-islam_n_568cfdfe4b0a2b6fb6de759

This is why they cheapen God's grace and see it as a green light for sin. There is no sense of gratitude to Jesus that wants to turn away from sin.

In the book of Romans, Paul talked about how the experience of forgiveness of sin and being born again changes our lives so our greater pleasure comes from pleasing Jesus, not from pursuing sinful pleasures in this world, like Jeffrey Epstein.

What shall we say then? Are we to continue in sin that grace may abound? By no means! How can we who died to sin still live in it? Do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? We were buried therefore with him by baptism into death, in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might walk in newness of life. Romans 6:1–4 (ESV)

Jesus has freed us from the power sin has over us. Jesus does not give us the liberty to plunge into sin but the power to turn away from sin.

Apostates are recognized by their denial of Jesus as their master.

...and deny our only Master and Lord, Jesus Christ. Jude 4 (ESV)

There is some unique wording in the closing words of this verse. Jude doesn't simply use the usual title for Jesus, which is Lord, but he also uses an unusual title for Jesus, a title that is typically reserved for God the Father. That is the term master. In Greek it is *despotes*. The word where we get our English word despot.

The way we can recognize someone who has gone apostate is while he or she wants the forgiveness of Jesus, thinking it will be a green light for sin, he or she refuses to recognize Jesus as the Lord of his or her life and the master of his or her life and the universe. These people want to be forgiven by Jesus but they do not want to bow the knee and live for Jesus. Spiritual terrorists will live

wanting the benefits of Jesus' forgiveness without wanting to give him his rightful position of being Lord and master in their lives. It doesn't work that way. It is a package deal. The only way to be saved by Jesus is to have him as both our savior and the Lord and Master of our lives.

I told you that spiritual terrorists try to creep into the church. After they stealthily infiltrate the church, they take believers and lead them away from the only gospel that can save. This kind of stuff happens all the time. Let me give you a recent example from American church history.

In 1918 Lewis Sperry Chafer published a book called He That is Spiritual. In that book, based on 1 Corinthians 3, he described two different kinds of Christians --- carnal Christians and spiritual Christians. Chafer said a carnal Christian is a man who has trusted Jesus to save him from his sin but who is not living with Jesus as his master. A spiritual Christian is someone who has trusted Jesus to save him and has asked Jesus to be his master and Lord. The key thing to know is Chafer claimed BOTH of these people were Christians.

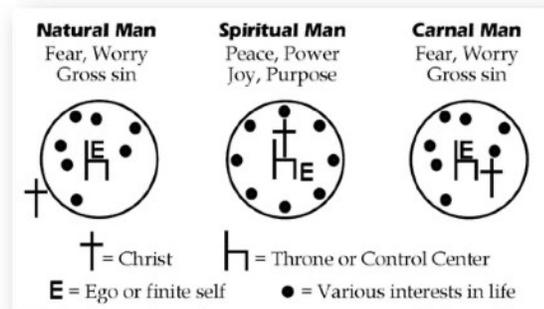
Chafer's teaching on the carnal Christian and the spiritual Christian made its way into Campus Crusade for Christ evangelism material and was used for many years. It was called the three-circle illustration.

In this illustration, on the left is a circle showing an unsaved person. He is in charge of his life and Jesus is outside of his life. On the right is a carnal Christian. This person has herself as the master of her life but Jesus is in her life because at one point she trusted in Jesus to save her from her sin. In the middle

is the spiritual man who has Jesus not just inside his life but on the throne in his life. Jesus is the savior, Lord and master in this person's world.

Following in the teaching of Lewis Sperry Chafer, Campus Crusade material taught that BOTH the center circle and the circle on the right were Christians! If you were a carnal Christian, they just challenged you to move to the center circle and become a better Christian.

This material is NOT true. Jude says the way you recognize spiritual terrorists is they want to be saved by Jesus but they do not want Jesus to be the Lord and master of their lives. They are not Christians. People claiming that position are looking to lead people away from Jesus. We cannot have Jesus as our savior if he is not also our Lord and master. Claiming we can is giving people false assurance of faith when they do not have saving faith!



The Bible's declaration that Jesus must be both our savior as well as our Lord and master is all over the place.

For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. Luke 2:11 (ESV)

Let all the house of Israel therefore know for certain that God has made him both Lord and Christ, this Jesus whom you crucified. Acts 2:36 (ESV)

...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. Romans 10:9 (ESV)

Conclusion

Jude was clear. The church in his day was being attacked by spiritual terrorists who had crept into the church and were sowing doubt about Jesus in the minds of Christians. They were introducing new teachings to take people away from Jesus.

Jude was adamant the church of his day, and the church of our day, must defend the historic faith given to us once for all by God. There is no other way to be saved by Jesus. Anything that undermines the truth of being saved by Jesus completely and fully is done by Satan and is an attempt to take us away from the only faith that can save us.

Jude was also clear about how to recognize spiritual terrorists when they tried to slip into the church. You could recognize them by the ungodliness of their lives on the outside. That revealed they do not know Jesus on the inside.

You can recognize them by their love to use God's forgiving grace as a green light for sin in their life.

You can recognize them by their insistence on wanting Jesus as their savior but their refusal to bow the knee and have him as the master and Lord of their lives that directs how they live.

This week, as you watch the news, and see the terrible destruction happening in Afghanistan as people are killed, Americans are threatened, and terror is unfolding, see what is happening in Afghanistan as a living picture of the incredible danger spiritual terrorists pose. The kind of terror and destruction terrorists are unleashing in Afghanistan is the picture of the horror spiritual terrorists want to unleash on the church.

This is why we must contend for the faith delivered once for all to the saints.



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