

Jude Series – Week 1 - Called To Contend 3/8/26

Before Jude warns the church about **wolves among us**, he reminds believers **who they are in Christ**.

We contend for the faith **not out of fear**, but out of confidence in the God who **calls, loves, and keeps His people**.

“To those who are called, beloved in God the Father and kept for Jesus Christ.”

— Jude 1

Why Jude Matters

Jude is only **25 verses**, yet it is one of the **most urgent letters in the New Testament**.

Jude warns that the greatest threat to the church often comes **from within**.

“Certain people have crept in unnoticed... ungodly people, who pervert the grace of our God.”

— Jude 4

False teaching rarely kicks down the door. It usually **blends in quietly**.

Our Identity in Christ

Before the warning, Jude reminds believers of three powerful truths:

1. Called by God

Salvation begins with **God’s initiative**, not ours.

John 6:44 – “No one can come to me unless the Father... draws him.”

Romans 8:30 – “Those whom he called he also justified.”

God calls us — and we respond in faith.

2. Beloved by the Father

We are not merely tolerated by God. We are **deeply loved**.

Romans 5:8 “While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.”

God’s love is **agape** — self-giving, covenant, sacrificial love.

3. Kept by Jesus Christ

Our salvation is not **self-maintained**. Jesus Himself guards His people.

John 10:28–29 “No one will snatch them out of my hand.”

The same Jesus who **saves us** is the one who **keeps us**.

The Call: Contend for the Faith

Jude originally wanted to write about salvation. Instead, he urgently calls the church to:

Jude 3 “**Contend for the faith that was once for all delivered to the saints.**”

Contending means **standing firm for biblical truth**. Not with hostility, but with **clarity, courage, and love**.

What Contending Looks Like

Know the Truth

2 Peter 3:18 “Grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord.”

We cannot defend what we **do not understand**.

Expose Error

Ephesians 5:11 “Take no part in the unfruitful works of darkness, but instead expose them.”

Discernment protects the church.

Stand with Grace and Courage

Truth and love must go together.

1 Peter 3:15 “Always be prepared to make a defense... with gentleness and respect.”

The Danger Jude Warns About

False teachers often:

- Use Christian language
- Claim Christian authority
- Redefine grace as permission to sin
- Reshape the gospel to fit culture

Matthew 7:15 “Beware of false prophets... wolves in sheep’s clothing.”

The danger is not always **outside the church**. Sometimes it **sits inside the room**.

The Good News

Even as we contend for the faith, our confidence is not in our strength.

Jude 24 “Now to him who is able to keep you from stumbling...”

God calls us. God loves us. God keeps us.

Reflection for the Week

Ask yourself:

- Do I **know the gospel clearly** enough to defend it?
- Am I growing in **discernment** or drifting with culture?
- Do I stand for truth with both **courage and grace**?

Final Reminder

We contend for the faith **not because we are strong...** but because **Christ is faithful**.

“To the only God our Savior... be glory, majesty, dominion, and authority.”

— Jude 25