

# Contend Earnestly For the Faith Which Was Once For All Handed Down to the Saints

## An Expository Study of the **Epistle of Jude**

### Chapter 12- The Characteristics of the Heretics **Jude 12-13**

### 128 The Characteristics of the Heretics- Part 6

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WOSM Friday 05/02/08

Welcome again my beloved in Jesus Christ. We are continuing our verse by verse ‘Journey’ through the Epistle of Jude and today we are continuing to examine what Jude taught about “The Characteristics of the Heretics.” So, let’s read verses 12 & 13 of Jude again together:

**12 These are the men who are hidden reefs in your love feasts when they feast with you without fear, caring for themselves; clouds without water, carried along by winds; autumn trees without fruit, doubly dead, uprooted;**

**13 wild waves of the sea, casting up their own shame like foam; wandering stars, for whom the black darkness has been reserved forever.**

Now in verse 12, Jude is telling his readers that the heretics are like “hidden reefs” or “spots” which lie just under the surface of the water near the shoreline waiting for someone to sail by so that they can rip open their undersides and destroy them. Look at how he describes their tactics:

**These are the men who are hidden reefs in your love feasts when they feast with you without fear...**

Jude tells us that these men creep into the Church and sit down at the love feasts and feed without any fear whatsoever. They *know* that they are trying to destroy the sheep- yet they have no fear. This lack of godly fear is a real serious problem today.

Like those hidden reefs, the apostates embed themselves just under the surface of the love feasts of the early church from where they tear into the unsuspecting people with their lies and wickedness. Now originally, these love feasts were designed to be a regular event for the

purpose of instruction, encouragement, confrontation about sin; and to make sure that the saints were being cared for.

These feasts were similar to dinner on the grounds that we have in this area. Saved folk would come to hear the Word of God and partake of Communion and then they would sit around the table fellowshiping and discussing the great things of God over a nice meal.

After many instances where these false teachers came into these feasts- sadly- over time- they began to fade away from use.

The fact that these people could do what they did without any fear at all is very important for us to look at. Let's read **1 Timothy 4:1-9**:

**1 But the Spirit explicitly says that in later times some will fall away from the faith, paying attention to deceitful spirits and doctrines of demons,**

**2 by means of the hypocrisy of liars seared in their own conscience as with a branding iron,**

**3 men who forbid marriage and advocate abstaining from foods which God has created to be gratefully shared in by those who believe and know the truth.**

**4 For everything created by God is good, and nothing is to be rejected if it is received with gratitude;**

**5 for it is sanctified by means of the word of God and prayer.**

**6 In pointing out these things to the brethren, you will be a good servant of Christ Jesus, constantly nourished on the words of the faith and of the sound doctrine which you have been following.**

**7 But have nothing to do with worldly fables fit only for old women. On the other hand, discipline yourself for the purpose of godliness;**

**8 for bodily discipline is only of little profit, but godliness is profitable for all things, since it holds promise for the present life and also for the life to come.**

**9 It is a trustworthy statement deserving full acceptance.**

God word tells us that the heretics will bring in seducing spirits and doctrines of devils. These seducing spirits will deceive many and cause them to depart from the Faith that was once and for all delivered to the saints. The word that was translated here as seducing is the Greek word, *planos*, which means: *to cause to wander*.

The Bible tells us that the heretics will hide just under the surface like hidden reefs so that they may cause God's people to wander from

the Truth through their false teaching. In addition to this wandering, these evil men will bring in doctrines that are not just off base- but which actually originated from hell; from the devil himself. These doctrines are not just bad theology; or inconsistent teaching; nor are they simply honest but sincere mistakes- no, these doctrines are evil, and they will destroy the soul of man.

Paul goes on to say that the heretics speak their lies in a hypocritical way- in other words they come at you with what the Bible calls “feigned words”- or words that are meant to deceive; words that are misleading and that have a hidden objective or purpose.

The reason that these men can do all this is that Paul said that their conscience has been damaged due to their refusal to repent. They have ignored the warnings of the Holy Ghost for so long; they have rejected God’s conviction on their lives for so long; they have hardened their hearts for so long- they no longer care. They can sin with abandon with no remorse and no conviction. And Paul used a very interesting phrase to describe the damaged conscience of the false teachers. He called it:

**... seared in their own conscience as with a branding iron**

These hypocritical false teachers can deceive people with no remorse whatsoever. They can promote themselves knowing that they are lying without any fear. They can attend the Church and sit and feast with the believers- all the while they know that they are wicked and evil and that they are trying to deceive the sheep – yet they bear no shame- they have no conviction, and they feel no remorse.

My brothers and sisters this is the most frightening place that anyone can ever get to. They can sin with no thought of right or wrong because they have laid a hot iron upon their own soul and have become calloused to the conviction of God’s Spirit.

Please, I beg you- do not harden your hearts. When God convicts you of some sin in your life- repent quickly. Do not presume that you can continue to sin, and it have no affect on your life. Do not be so foolish to think that you can live in direct rebellion to the Word of God or live in isolation to the authority of Scripture and still be right with God. You can’t and to continue in sin will harden your heart.

Every single time God convicts your heart, and you resist that conviction, you are searing your conscience with a hot iron. And every moment that your soul is seared- it is that much harder for you to even desire to repent.

Do not play with God. Play with me; play with the IRS; play with the Sheriff's Department- but do not play with God. When you play with God- when you dabble with sin and still act like you're walking with God; when you are out in the world enjoying the pleasures of sin for a season- know that God has got your number and you will stay in that sin longer than you ever dreamed and that sin will cost you more than you are willing to pay.

Hear me Christian friend this day and turn from sin while your heart is still soft and live.

The Apostle Paul then gives two very clear examples of this false teaching; this hypocritical doctrine; this apostasy; this heresy in verses 3-5:

**3** *men who forbid marriage and advocate abstaining from foods which God has created to be gratefully shared in by those who believe and know the truth.*

**4** **For everything created by God is good, and nothing is to be rejected if it is received with gratitude;**

**5** **for it is sanctified by means of the word of God and prayer.**

All throughout history, different groups have risen up and have taught that marriage was bad, and that God's people could not and should not marry and have children. These groups were always called heretical groups and were denounced by the Christian Church as being off base and cultish.

God created marriage and God honors holy matrimony. That is why the Church has got to do a much better job of teaching about Biblical marriage and of doing premarital counseling rather than doing counseling after the marriage falls apart.

When a marriage is performed in the House of God three Covenants are made. One covenant is between the Christian man and the Christian women. Both man and women should be born again; fruit bearing; active members- who are on fire for God and who are busy in

the work of the Lord or else the pastor has no business performing the wedding ceremony to begin with.

It is wrong for a Christian to marry an unbeliever. In fact, it is wrong for a believer to even date an unbeliever. How can light fellowship with darkness? How can he that believes have any fellowship with someone who doesn't believe much less marry them?

I know that you think that you can change them- but if Jesus Christ can't change them- honey- you sure won't. Just because they attend Church every Christmas and Easter and say the word "God" five times every year doesn't mean that they are born again.

If they do not bear godly fruit on an ongoing basis then the Bible says that they are not saved- no matter how good they look or how good they sing. No fruit- no salvation. When they don't love to pray; when they have no desire to give to God; when the Bible bores them- when they never sow seed to win others to Christ- maybe you ought to call off the wedding. Beloved, if they don't love and serve your God they won't love you for very long.

Besides the requirement that both people should be fruit bearing; sin hating; Jesus loving soul winning Christians, the only other Biblical requirement for marriage is that one of the people be a woman and the other one be a man.

Those Churches that are joining men with men and women with women are violating Scripture and are contributing to those people going to hell. If you love them- tell them that their perversion is a wicked sin before God and stop sanctioning something that God said was wrong. Listen, Love is wonderful. I'm all about love. God is love- but true love; godly love *acknowledges* sin and turns from it. True love doesn't *celebrate* what God calls sin.

Now the second covenant that they make when they get married is with Almighty God. That man is making an oath to God that he is going to love that woman as Christ loved the Church for the rest of her life. Now that's a lot of love. And without the power of Jesus Christ moving and breathing in his heart- he simply will not do that. The woman has also made an oath to God that she is going to honor and love and obey that man and submit herself to his authority in the home even as the Church has submitted herself to Christ for the rest of his life. Man, when marriage is good it is real good!

But there is also a third covenant that is made at a wedding that we really don't talk much about anymore. That couple has also made a covenant with the people of that Church who have witnessed that wedding. They have sworn and taken an oath that they are going to be an example of what godly holy matrimony is all about so as to continue the wonderful institution of matrimony- the building block of civilization intact before the members of that Church.

And so, we have three covenants and when those three covenants are kept- everyone benefits. God benefits because He is magnified and glorified in the continuation of the institution of holy matrimony that He created. The people of God are benefited because a godly family is created out of two individual Christians and even society at large- saved or not is benefited with stability and consistency- two hallmarks of what Christianity once proudly stood for.

So only the devil would try to tear up marriages. Only the devil would try to forbid marriage. Only the devil would prevent godly people from getting married due to some off the wall teaching or because of some historical significance.

Likewise, the teaching that certain meats are unlawful to eat is not a doctrine that should be among believers. God has sanctified meat by His own Word and the prayer that is offered before the meal.

But even though these two aspects are so crystal clear- these two areas of false teaching and heresy are alive and well and living in a Church near you right now. We have Churches all over our land right now that gladly join men with men and women with women and then pronounces God's blessings on that sinful union. We have a Church system in our day that forbids her ministers to marry- violating the Scriptures and ignoring their own history. We have a Church that has come to bright idea to officially ordain an unfaithful, alcoholic, and perverted man as a bishop so he can administer the holy things of God to the people of God while the leaders of that Church wring their hands not knowing what to do and going through verbal gymnastics trying to be on both sides of the issue.

Beloved truly we are living in the day that Jude warned us about and that is why we all need to earnestly contend for the Faith that was once and for all delivered to the saints. Well, I've got to stop right here. But please join me on the next broadcast as we continue our Journey through the Epistle of **Jude**. May God help us all.

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