

*“Caring For The Casualties”*  
*Jude 1:22-23*

**Introduction:**

1. We Have Just Two More Messages In Our Study Of:
  - The Letter Of Jude:
    - So Please Head Back There With Me This Morning!
  - The Great Theme Of This Letter:
    - Is What We Find In Verse 3:
      - “That Ye Should Earnestly Contend For The Faith Which Was Once Delivered Unto The Saints!”
    - This Is Our Responsibility:
      - As Christians & As A Church!
  - Because Of The False Teachers & The False Members:
    - Who Have, In The Words Of Jude In Verse 4:
      - “Crept In Unawares!”
    - And Even Though They Try To Operate In Secret:
      - The Lord Knows Who They Are & What They Are Like!
    - And So In Much Of This Letter:
      - They Are Described In Detail:
        - So That We Can Be “Aware” Of Them & To Be On The “Look-Out” For Them!”
2. Toward The End Of His Letter:
  - Jude Tells Us:
    - How We Can Prepare Ourselves To:
      - “Earnestly Contend For The Faith!”
  - In Verse 17, We Are Told:
    - To Remember The Word Of The Lord!
      - Because It Is The Word Of God That Will Help Us “Contend” For Our Faith!
  - Have You Been Growing:
    - In The Word Of God?
      - It Is The Only Weapon The Lord Gives Us To “Fight The Good Fight Of Faith!” (1 Timothy 6:12) (Ephesians 6:17 - “The Sword Of The Spirit, Which Is The Word Of God!”)
  - In Verse 21, We Are Told:
    - To Remain In Our Walk With The Lord!
      - “Keep Yourselves In The Love Of God!”
        - That Is, Don’t Turn Your Back On The Love & Goodness Of God!
    - Have You Been Growing:
      - In Your Walk With God?
        - Through His Word, In Prayer, And With Hope?
  - This Is How We Can Prepare Ourselves To:
    - “Earnestly Contend For The Faith!”
      - Are You Prepared? Are You Ready?
3. However, Just Like In Any War & In Any Battle:
  - There Will Be Casualties!
    - **IE:** During World War 2, As The Allies Were Making Plans To Invade France In Operation Overlord On D-Day, June 6, 1944, The Plans Included How Many Casualties They Could Expect! Projections Were From As Few As 19,000 Men, To As Many As 94,000 Men – Nearly 60% Of The Entire Invading Force! Casualties Were Expected! And So Plans Were Made To Care For The Casualties As Well – As Best They Could! Thankfully, There Was Only A 6% Casualty Rate – Nearly 10,000 – But Far Less Than What Was Expected!
  - Unfortunately, Casualties Can Be Expected As Well:
    - In This Spiritual War We Are In!
      - There Will Be Christians Within Our Churches Who Will Be Influenced By:
        - False Teachers & False Members!
4. There Will Be Casualties!
  - And We Have Probably All Seen Some:
    - And Known Some!

- Maybe We've Even Been One Ourselves!
- And Although We Each Have A Personal Responsibility To Prepare Ourselves:
  - By Growing In The Word Of God!
  - And By Growing In Your Walk With God!
- We Each Also Have A Responsibility:
  - To Treat The Casualties Within Our Church As Well!
    - We Are Our "Brother's Keeper!" (Genesis 4:9)
    - And Our "Sister's Keeper!"
- We Must Not Let Our Brothers & Sisters In Christ:
  - Remain Casualties:
    - To The False Teaching & Preaching That Is Very Prominent Today!
- And So In Verses 22-23:
  - Jude Tells Us How We Should:
    - Care For The Casualties Within Our Churches!
      - Those Who Have Been Attracted By & Deceived By & Influenced By Error!
  - Jude Writes - "And of some have compassion, making a difference: / And others save with fear, pulling them out of the fire; hating even the garment spotted by the flesh!"
- This Is How We Are To Care For The Casualties:
  - Of The Spiritual Battles We Face:
    - As Christians & As A Church!
  - Now Unfortunately These 2 Verses:
    - Have Been Translated Quite Differently In The Various Versions That Are Available Today!
  - So That Is Why I Have The Entire Text Written There For You On Your Message Guide:
    - Because It Follows What, I Believe, Is The Best Preserved Manuscripts And Text.
      - And Instead Of Confusion, We Are Given Very Clear Instructions For How We Are To Care For Both Weak & Wandering Christians Within Our Church!
- This Is How We Are To Care For Casualties:

\* First:

**1. With Tender Devotion!**

- 22a - "And Of Some Have Compassion!"
  - **IE:** In Our Country, We Have A Great Health-Care System! And Some Hospitals Have Been Built Just To Treat And Care For Our Injured & Wounded Service-Men & Women! There Are Many External Injuries From War, But There Are Many Internal Injuries As Well! And It Takes A Special Kind Of Person To Care For Those Who Have Been Injured! Doctors & Nurses & Aids, Who Are Not Only Experts In Their Fields, But Also Have Genuine Care For Their Patients!
    - When It Comes To The Spiritual Casualties Within Our Churches:
      - There Are Some Who Need, And Will Only Respond To, The Tender Treatment By Other Christians!
    - "And Of Some Have Compassion!"
  - Who Are These Casualties In Need Of Our Compassion?
    - The Weak & The Wounded Among Us!
    - What Do They Need?
  - Our Response Of Mercy!
    - "Have Compassion!"
      - This Can Also Be Translated - "Have Mercy!"
        - It Is To Be: "A Special And Unusual Mercy" For Them In Their Condition Of Weakness! (Barnes)
    - Now - This Does Not Mean That We:
      - Overlook Their Sin:
        - Or Condone Their Error!
    - It Simply Means That We Approach Them With A Greater Degree Of:
      - Compassion, Mercy, Kindness & Forgiveness!
        - **IE:** Much Like How The Prophet Nathan Came To King David To Confront Him About His Sin! He Used An Illustration / A Story About A Man And His Special Lamb That Was Taken From Him! God, Through Nathan, Dealt Gently & Compassionately With David - And David Responded With Repentance & Renewed Faith & Fellowship With God!

- We Must Be Ready To Extend Mercy & Compassion:
  - To Those Who Will Respond To Mercy & Compassion!
  - Because They Also Need:
- Our Reflection Of Mercy!
  - Those Who Are Spiritual Casualties:
    - And Are Weak & Wounded:
      - Need To Be Pointed To The Mercy & Compassion Of Their Savior!
      - The Lord Jesus Christ!
  - Didn't Jesus Himself Say:
    - "Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest!" (Matthew 11:28)
  - And Wasn't It Also Said Of Jesus That:
    - "A bruised reed shall he not break, and the smoking flax shall he not quench!" (Isaiah 42:3; Matthew 12:20)
  - Jesus Is Our Merciful & Compassionate God!
    - And When We Extend Mercy & Compassion:
      - To Our Brothers & Sisters In Christ, Even When They Have Gone Astray, We Are Reflecting The Mercy & Compassion Of Jesus!
  - And In Order For Them:
    - To Be Healed Of Their Wounds:
    - And To Be Given Strength In Their Weakness:
      - They Need Jesus!
    - Because - "The LORD is nigh unto them that are of a broken heart; and saveth such as be of a contrite spirit!" (Psalm 34:18)
      - We Must Point Them To Him!
  - And We Will, When We Remember:
- Our Reason For Mercy!
  - These Verses Are Tied To The Previous Verse:
    - Verse 21 - Which Tells Us We Are To Be "Looking For The *Mercy* Of Our Lord Jesus Christ!"
      - Mercy! His Merciful Return!
  - As We Look For His Mercy To Us:
    - We Are To Share His Mercy With Others!
- Are You Ready To:
  - Have Mercy & Compassion For:
    - The Weak & Wounded Casualties Within The Church?
  - Remember Matthew 5:7:
    - "Blessed are the merciful: for they shall obtain mercy!"

\* Second - We Are To Care For Spiritual Casualties:

**2. *With Thoughtful Discernment!***

- 22 - "And Of Some Have Compassion, Making A Difference!"
  - Some Take The Word For "Difference" Here To Describe The Ones Who Need Compassion:
    - And Say It Is Because They Have "Doubts!"
  - But Is Better Taken To Describe Those:
    - Who Are Caring For The Casualties!
      - Because Not Every Casualty Will Require The Same Kind Of Treatment!
  - "Making A Difference" Here Means:
    - To Use Thoughtful Discernment:
      - In Your Treatment Of Spiritual Casualties Within The Church!
  - **IE:** It Is Like A Military Triage Center On The Front Lines During A Battle! As The Casualties Come In, Decisions Have To Be Made! Whose Lives Are In The Most Danger! Who Needs Immediate Surgery! Who Are Strong Enough To Be Sent To Another Hospital! And Who Are Dying, For Whom There Is Little Or No Hope! It Is A Difficult Process That Requires Great Skill And Thoughtful Discernment!
    - When It Comes To The Spiritual Casualties Within Our Churches:
      - There Needs To Be Thoughtful Discernment In How We Are To Treat Them!
- We Need To Be "Making A Difference!"
  - Between Casualties:
    - Because Not Every One Will Respond To The Same Kind Of Treatment!

- Albert Barnes - "While We Are To Seek To Save All, We Are To Adapt Ourselves Wisely To The Character And The Circumstances Of Those Whom We Seek To Serve!"
  - Don't We See This Same Kind Of Thoughtful Discernment:
    - In The Ministry Of Our Lord Jesus?
      - Especially Toward His Own Disciple, Peter!
        - Who Was In Need Of Correction Several Times In The Gospels!
    - When Peter Denied Jesus At His Crucifixion:
      - Peter Became A Spiritual Casualty:
        - To His Own Sin!
          - He Need To Be Rescued & Corrected!
    - How Did Jesus Approach Peter?
      - With Tender Compassion!
        - John 21:15 - "So when they had dined, Jesus saith to Simon Peter, Simon, son of Jonas, lovest thou me more than these? He saith unto him, Yea, Lord; thou knowest that I love thee. He saith unto him, Feed my lambs!" – And He Continued This 2 More Times!
  - But Earlier, When Peter Opposed Jesus' Journey:
    - To Jerusalem To Be Crucified, And Rebuked Him!
      - Again, Peter Became A Spiritual Casualty!
        - And Needed To Be Rescued & Corrected!
    - How Did Jesus Approach Peter This Time?
      - In A Much Harsher Tone!
        - Jesus Said - "Get thee behind me, Satan: thou art an offence unto me: for thou savourest not the things that be of God, but those that be of men!" (Matthew 16:23)
  - Jesus Knew The Kind Of Treatment:
    - Peter Needed:
      - In Order To Bring Him Back Into Fellowship!
- We Need This Same Kind Of Thoughtful Discernment!
  - Matthew Henry - "We Must Distinguish Between The Weak And The Wilful!"
    - And Then Use The Most Fitting Treatment For Their Condition!
  - In The Words Of Jude 22-23:
    - "And Of Some Have Compassion, Making A Difference [Between Them]; And Others Save With Fear!"

\* So There Are Also Times We Need To Care For Spiritual Casualties:

**3. *With Timely Deliverance!***

- 23 - "And Others Save With Fear, Pulling Them Out Of The Fire; Hating Even The Garment Spotted By The Flesh!"
  - **IE:** Some Hospitals Not Only Have Emergency Rooms, But Trauma Centers! For Those Patients Who Are Suffering From Traumatic Injuries – Like Gunshot Wounds / Severe Car Accidents / Third Degree Burns! During The Civil War, One Of The Most Traumatic Solutions For The Injuries Of The Soldiers On The Front Lines Was Amputation! And Most Of The Time, Without Any Kind Of Anesthesia! It Was Harsh & It Was Painful! But It Was Often Necessary To Save Their Lives!
    - There Are Times When The Spiritual Casualties In Our Churches:
      - Need A Harsh Rebuke!
    - Because That Is The Only Kind Of Treatment They Will Respond To!
      - But We Need Wisdom To Know Who Needs This Kind Of Treatment & When!
    - We Must Remember To Use:
      - Thoughtful Discernment!
        - "Making A Difference!"
  - How Can We Deliver Those Who:
    - Have Wandered Away From The Lord?
- With The Right Truth!
  - "And Others Save!"
    - We Need To Point Them Once Again:
      - To Jesus!
        - After All, He Is "The Savior Of The Body!"
  - So, When We Are Told To "Save" Some:
    - We Are Simply The Tools / Instruments:

- God Uses To Lead Them Back:
  - To Jesus!
- He Is Really Their Only Hope!
  - If They Have Wandered So Far Away From Him!
  - And If We Really Care For Someone, We Will Not Just Leave Them In Their Condition!
- With The Right Tone!
  - “And Others Save With Fear!”
    - That Is – The “Fear Of The Lord!”
  - 2 Corinthians 5:11 - “Knowing therefore the terror of the Lord, we persuade men!”
    - We Need To Treat People Based On The Seriousness Of Their Spiritual Injury!
    - And How Much Danger They Are In!
  - Hebrews 10:31 - “It is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living God!”
    - There Are Times Our Tone Needs To Match:
      - The Danger A Person Is In!
    - **IE:** Like A Child Playing In The Driveway! At First, Told To Not Go Near The Road! But The Closer They Get To The Road, The Louder Our Voice Will Get! Uncaring? No! The Opposite!
      - Because They Also Need:
- With The Right Treatment!
  - “Pulling Them Out Of The Fire!”
    - This Is What Sin Is – Fire!
    - This Is What Doctrinal Error Is – Fire!
    - And They Are Eternally Destructive!
  - And There Are Times:
    - We Need To Go On A Rescue Mission:
      - For Those Who Have Wandered Away!
    - As An Old Puritan Writer Once Described Them:
      - They Are Living In The “Suburbs Of Hell!” (Thomas Manton)
  - What Would You Do:
    - If You Saw A \$100 Dollar Bill:
      - In A Fireplace – With Hot Coals All Around!
      - It Is Starting To Singe, And Will Soon Be Engulfed With Flames!
    - What Would You Do?
      - Snatch It Out As Quickly As You Can!
  - What Would You Do:
    - If You Heard A Person Screaming:
      - From Inside A House That Is On Fire?
      - Noone Else Around To Help!
    - What Would You Do?
      - You Would Try Your Best To Rescue That Person!
  - What Do We Do:
    - When We See Someone Living Their Lives:
      - In Sin & In Error?
        - In The “Suburbs Of Hell!”
    - Will We Grasp Them In Order To Save Them?
      - Or Will We Just Let Them Go?
        - What Would Jesus Do?
        - What Does Jesus Do – With You?
- With The Right Temper!
  - “Hating Even The Garment Spotted By The Flesh!”
    - We Are To Hate What God Hates!
      - And We Are To Especially Hate Those Sins & Errors That Lure Others Away From The Lord!
  - And This Phrase Describes:
    - Just How Deep & How Intense:
      - Our Hatred For Sin Should Go!
    - Jude Is Describing Under-Clothing:
      - That Is Stained:

- From Something That Came Out Of The Body!
- Who Would Want To Wear Something Like That:
  - Over Again?
- **IE:** Remember The Case Of The Ebola Virus In Texas? The Infected Man Had Blood & Puss & Vomit Violently Coming Out Of His Body! It Would Get All Over His Hospital Robes & Dressings! And The Doctors & Nurses Wanted Nothing To Do With Those “Garments!” They Threw Them Away & Into A Pile! They Tried To Get Rid Of Them As Fast As They Could!
  - We Must Not Only Hate:
    - What Sin Is!
    - But Also What Sin Does!
- And This Is Why We Are To Be:
  - In The Business Of A Spiritual Trauma Center!
    - Because We Hate “Even The Garment Spotted By The Flesh!”
- There Are Times When:
  - Those Who Have Wandered Away Into Sin & Error:
    - Must Be Confronted In This Way!
  - And To Do So:
    - Is Still One Of The Most Loving & Compassionate Things That We Can Do!\

**Conclusion:**

1. Do You See Today:
  - That This Is Your Business As A Christian?
    - Yes - You Are To Tend To Yourself:
      - In The Spiritual Battles:
        - We Face As Christians!
      - You Need To:
        - Remember The Word Of God!
      - And You Need To:
        - Remain In Your Walk With God!
2. But You Also Need To / We All Need To:
  - Rescue The Weak & Wounded!
  - We Need To Keep:
    - Tending To Others:
      - Who Are The Casualties:
        - Of This Spiritual War!
    - James 5:19-20 - “Brethren, if any of you do err from the truth, and one convert him; / Let him know, that he which converteth the sinner from the error of his way shall save a soul from death, and shall hide a multitude of sins!”
      - Never Stop Caring:
        - For The Casualties Of Sin & Error!

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