

Exhortations To Christians part 2

Jude 22-25

I. Love that makes a difference- v. 22

- a. There are many that have been confused by false teachers and false doctrine- we need to lovingly share the truth with them!
- b. We are commanded to love!- I John 4:7-8
 - i. The greatest commandment- the most important commandment- Love God, and love your neighbor
 - ii. Christians ought to be the most loving and compassionate people- Jesus taught some radical views on love especially for His day. (love your enemies)
- c. What is genuine compassion?
 - i. Concern, sympathy, kindness, love
 - ii. A great illustration- The Good Samaritan- Luke 10:30-37
- d. Compassion makes a difference!
 - i. Make the sacrifice to have compassion- Ps. 126:5-6
 - ii. Compassion made a difference in my life! A loving Savior, loving family, and a loving church that disciplined me!

II. Pulling them out of the fire

- a. Some people are in deep bondage to sin, and we must go and reach them!
 - i. These are the hard cases! Seemingly impossible! (illustr- rich man going to Heaven)
 - ii. "Throw out the lifeline!"
 - iii. Sadly, some don't want to get their hands and clothes dirty trying to reach the lost
 - iv. Save with fear- This second group must be confronted more strongly!
- b. Hating even the garment- We must not be contaminated/defiled by their sins!
 - i. Keep a safe distance- illustr- the clothes of a leper in the OT were burned!
 - ii. You don't jump into a pit to save someone
 - iii. Avoid all appearance of evil

- c. This again goes back to compassion- love the sinner, hate the sin- Many Christians use the cliché “Love the sinner; hate the sin.” This phrase is not found in the Bible, however, Jude 1:22–23 contains a similar principle: According to this, our evangelism should be characterized by love for the sinner and a healthy hatred of sin and its effects.
 - i. Be careful with the phrase- in some people’s mind it contrasts love vs. judgment, holiness, wrath. These things can actually be a part of God’s love! (extreme illustration of a parent giving an addict money for drugs)
 - ii. Though the goal may be noble—Christians should love everybody—the result can be dangerous if you do not understand all the parts of the Lord’s love like justice, holiness, and wrath, which can be siphoned from His character if love is watered down to culture-accepting levels.
- d. Biblical view of love- sadly we have to vividly define what love actually is as these terms are being redefined in our culture
 - i. God is love- among many other attributes- so we must learn about love from Him
 - ii. Very clearly, love is not complete acceptance and approval of sin
 - iii. God hates sin! The greatest proof is what God did to His only begotten Son on the cross!
 - iv. Yet we see God’s justice, holiness, and judgment also as an expression of his love- John 3:16
 - v. If God ignored sin, His love would be without force or meaning. You will never fully appreciate God’s love until you understand His holiness and justice!
 - vi. It is not loving to allow a person to remain stuck in sin. It is not hateful to tell a person that they are living in sin.
 - vii. Love, then, is the desire for God’s best for a person

III. He will keep you from falling

- a. We were taking an outward look, now we take an upward look!
- b. False teachers and false doctrine may abound, but God’s grace much more abounds!
- c. God is able! He is able to save us, and to keep us saved! Study John 17 in regards to our preservation in Christ

- d. By comparing passages of Scripture, we also find out who is really responsible for our safe keeping. Jude began the letter by addressing those who are preserved in Jesus (Jude 1). Then he exhorted Christians to keep themselves in the love of God (Jude 21) Here at the end he concluded with the recognition that it is ultimately God who keeps us from stumbling and falling (deity of Christ).
- e. “Keeping us spiritually safe is God’s work. But you can always tell the people He is working in, because they are working also.”

Conclusion:

- We walk out of Jude on a note of victory!
- Jude is a book full of warning, but it closes with supreme confidence in God. Dangerous times should make us trust in a mighty God.
- He will preserve those who are in Christ one day we will be presented as faultless before God!