

A Call to Action to A Call to Fight

Jude 1:1-4

I. The Army

A. Jude the *aide-de-camp* in military jargon, the assistant to the commander.

B. Jude, James, Joseph, and Simon are all brothers of Jesus

1. They thought Jesus was crazy. They did not believe in Jesus while He went through his 3 ½ year ministry on the earth?

2. They thought he was 2 French fries minus a Happy Meal

C. The commander is Jesus

II. The Adversary

A. Jude is giving a call to arms to get into a fight.

B. “The Holy Spirit led him to put down his harp and to sound the trumpet.” Warren Wiersbe

C. ***Contend earnestly or vigorously for the faith.***

1. ***The faith*** is a term in the New Testament that refers is the complete New Testament teaching concerning Jesus Christ.

III. The Artillery

A. The Truth was handed over or put under our care to steward

B. We don't just fight **for** the truth. We fight **with** the truth. We combat error with truth.

IV. The Antagonist

A. **What** are we fighting against? Lewd Behavior

B. **Who** are we fighting against? Ungodly

1. **The Ungodly is:**

a. A person who claims to belong to God, but they are not like God in their thinking or behavior

Jude reminds us that Christians are not spectators watching a ballgame but playing on the field. Not on a fishing boat, but a battleship!

A Call to Action to A Call to Fight

Jude 1:1-4

Great to have everyone here today! Over the last few weeks, we've been walking through the book of James and examining his practical theology. Last week, we concluded our series with James, featuring a message titled "A Call to Action." Today's message is titled "A Call to Action: Stepping onto the Battlefield."

Intro:

So, if you'd turn in your Bibles to the tiny book of Jude, also known as "Hey Jude. (lol)." That was a joke. Yeah, the book of Jude. I'm really glad to be doing a verse-by-verse study, albeit a short book. I'm really glad that we can be going through this incredible section of Scripture.

Just kind of a forewarning, this message today is a call to arms or a summons to fight, and I know you're thinking, well, I didn't come to church to learn how to fight. I came to church to be encouraged. I understand that. When I was a kid, I never liked getting into fights. That's not to say I didn't get into a fight, because I did from occasion to occasion, time to time. But I didn't like it. I tried to avoid it, even though I had an older brother who liked to get me into fights. I think we all know kids like that in school who were like that. But I wasn't really that kid. As a Christian, I don't necessarily like to fight and most Christians would agree that fighting is not what we are called to do, primarily.

We follow a Savior who said in Matthew 11:29, "I am gentle and humble in heart....." The problem is, we may think He was always like that. We might think that Jesus never raised His voice, that Jesus would never embarrass anyone, that He would never call anybody out, that He just sort of stood there with a smile on His face, His hand on the head of little kids,

A Call to Action to A Call to Fight Jude 1:1-4

maybe healing birds from time to time, and just speaking in a gentle, soft, loving voice.

I've even noticed that great artists in history have depicted Jesus the same sort of way. They, for the most part, picture and paint a Jesus who is thoughtful, weak, and even effeminate. However, there was a side of Jesus that was contentious.

- The Jesus that took tables in the temple and overturned them and took out a whip and drove people out of the temple. Yeah, that Jesus.
- The one who said, "Brood of Vipers." (Matthew 12:34) that translated, you bunch of slimy snakes. That Jesus.
- The one who said to His detractors, 'Whitewashed tombs filled with dead men's bones and all corruption.' (Matthew 23:27)
- The one who said, ⁴⁴ You are of *your* father the devil, and you want to do the desires of your father." (John 8:44)
- The same Jesus who said to the religious leaders, 'When you win a convert, you make him your father. You make him twice as much a child of hell as yourselves.' (Matthew 23:15)

It is that side of Jesus that the book of Jude brings into the forefront. **It is Jesus with a backbone.**

Now Jude is a small book. There are only 25 verses in it with only 613 words. Although it's a small book, it packs a big punch. I see Jude as a sort of fighter's manual for believers. It was not Jude's intention originally to write this letter. Jude sat down to write a sweet little note of encouragement, but he ended up writing about false teachers that had come into the church.

A Call to Action to A Call to Fight Jude 1:1-4

This book reminds us that Christians are not spectators watching a ballgame but playing on the field. Not on a fishing boat, but a battleship! We are called to that. In fact, the whole atmosphere of the book of Jude has sort of a military tone from the language that is used, i.e., the grammar, the brevity of the commands, and the sort of bullet point directives that Jude gives throughout this book. In fact, in verse 3, he uses the term “*exhorting*”. This is what I am doing, he said, I am exhorting you. And that's a word that describes a General giving orders to an army. So let's read the first four verses of Jude. This is our command to combat, our call to arms.

¹ Jude, a bond-servant of Jesus Christ and brother of ^[b]James, To those who are the called, beloved in God the Father, and kept for Jesus Christ: ² May mercy, peace, and love be multiplied to you. ³ Beloved, while I was making every effort to write you about our common salvation, I felt the necessity to write to you appealing that you contend earnestly for the faith that was once for all time handed down to the ^[c]saints. ⁴ For certain people have crept in unnoticed, those who were long beforehand marked out for this condemnation, ungodly persons who turn the grace of our God into indecent behavior and deny our only Master and Lord, Jesus Christ.

- Did you know that Jude is one of the most neglected books in the New Testament? Most preachers don't touch it. They don't preach sermon series from it.

A Call to Action to A Call to Fight Jude 1:1-4

- It's filled with all these kinds of Old Testament analogies and references and there's a lot of judgment and condemnation and warnings in this book.
- I've even noticed that it's hard to find a good commentary on the book of Jude. There are a few of them, but most commentators, those who write books on the books of the Bible, don't have a lot of stuff on the book of Jude.
- Most Christians know it's there, but they don't really know what it's about and certainly, they don't quote much from it. Good luck in finding someone who will say, my life verse is found in the book of Jude.
- But all that most Christians really know about it is probably verse 24.
 - It's the benediction at the end of the book, where he says, ²⁴ ***Now to Him who is able to protect you from stumbling, and to make you stand in the presence of His glory, blameless with great joy,***

It's a great benediction. But that's about it.

-The book of Jude was written about apostasy. Ever heard that term, apostasy? To apostatize or an apostate. It's a word that means those who *defect from truth*. They defect from the true faith. Or they never really had the true faith, but they pretended to be a part of it. You could call them nominal Christians, Christians in name only, who slip in, as you will see, unnoticed. Now, you might ask, well, what's the big deal about that? Why write a whole book or a little letter even about that?

-Well, that is the question we're going to answer starting today and in the next few weeks.

A Call to Action to A Call to Fight Jude 1:1-4

-I want to show you 4 components to this Warcry. We're going to look at the army, the hostility, the artillery, and the enemy. Let's consider those four components.

I. First of all, the **Army** found that in verses 1 and 2. ***“Jude, a bondservant of Jesus Christ and brother of James, to those who are called, sanctified by God the Father, and preserved in Jesus Christ. Mercy, peace, and love be multiplied to you”***. That's the army. It includes Jude, the author, Jesus Christ, the commander, and us, the troops.

A. So, let's just begin with Jude. I'm going to call Jude the ADC, the aide-de-camp in military jargon. He is the assistant to the commander.

1. He is the one who is going to give the command of the commander to the troops. He is the one writing the letter. He is bringing the summons, calling us to war.
2. Now, he is called Jude in our English translations, but here's what you may not know. English translations have altered the original name of Jude and given him the nickname, not really the name that is written in Greek. It doesn't say Jude. In Greek, his name **You-Dass** (Judas), which is the name, Judas.

a. There's lots of different people in the New Testament by the name Judas, but there's only one we remember, and that's Judas the traitor, Judas Iscariot and It is not that Judas who wrote this book, however, for obvious reasons, instead of saying, hey, here's the book of Judas, because people are going to go, whoa, I don't

A Call to Action to A Call to Fight

Jude 1:1-4

want to read that book. I don't want to find out about how to be a traitor. So they've softened the name, Jude.

3. People don't name their kids Judas. Have you noticed that? Have you ever met a Judas before? We'll name our kids Paul, Peter, other biblical names, but not that one. You won't name your dog Judas. But the Jude or Judas that wrote this book is a different one than Judas Iscariot.
 - a. By the way, let's just throw that out. Isn't it ironic that the only book in the New Testament that speaks about falling away from the faith, defecting, apostatizing, is called the book of Judas? It's just an interesting thing to note.
4. But the Jude that wrote, notice who he is. He's a bondservant of Jesus Christ and the brother of James. So that narrows it down. Of all the people named Jude or Judas in the New Testament, there is only one who we know about whose brother was named James, and that is Jude, the half-brother of Jesus, literally related to Jesus Christ.
 - a. Both James and Jude, Judas, in this case, were related physically to Jesus. That is, Joseph and Mary were his parents, Jude's parents, and James. Whereas Jesus had Mary as his mother, but was conceived in the womb by the Holy Spirit.
 - b. A half-brother of Jesus. We meet them in Matthew chapter 13. The text says ⁵⁵ ***Is this not the carpenter's son? Is His mother not called Mary, and His brothers, James, Joseph, Simon, and Judas?***

A Call to Action to A Call to Fight

Jude 1:1-4

- i. That's who we believe wrote the book of Jude.
Jude, the half-brother of Jesus.
- c. So, verse 1 then speaks of a transformation that happened in Jude's life. For he says, ***Jude, a bondservant of Jesus Christ.***
 - i. He wasn't always a bondservant of Jesus Christ. In fact, did you know that Jude and James and the other brothers, half-brothers, did not believe in Jesus while Jesus went through his ministry, a 3 ½ year ministry on the earth? They thought Jesus was nuts.
 - (a) They thought he was delusional.
 - (b) They thought the lights were on, but nobody's home.
 - (c) They thought he was 2 French fries minus a happy meal, or whatever delusional metaphor you want to use.
 - ii. They thought that about Jesus.
 - (a) We were told as much in Mark 3, ***as the crowds gathered in Capernaum, and Jesus, it says, was unable to eat. When his family heard about this, they went to take charge of him, for they said he is out of his mind.***
 - iii. They thought he was bonkers. They didn't believe in Him. Now, I'm bringing this up, and I'm

A Call to Action to A Call to Fight

Jude 1:1-4

underscoring it, because I want those of you with unbelieving family members to be encouraged by this. **Even Jesus Christ had family members who were unbelievers.**

5. So, the question is, well, what happened to Jude to make him a believer? And isn't it interesting, he doesn't say, Jude, the half-brother of Jesus. He says, 'Jude, a bond-servant of Jesus.' What happened? What transformed him from an unbeliever to a bond-slave of Jesus?
 - a. A very profound event that we'll be celebrating in 3 weeks known as the resurrection.
 - b. See, when your half-brother dies and then gets up from the dead, that'll do it. That's enough. And when that happened, he became a believer.
 - c. So, we find him in the book of Acts chapter 1. It says, ***“they all met together, that is in the upper room, continually for prayer, along with Mary, the mother of Jesus, several other women, and the brothers of Jesus.”***
 - i. Jude was in that upper room. The resurrection is what brought him to faith.
 - d. So, remember this, never give up on those you love. Never quit praying for your family members. Never stop having hope for that unbelieving family member.
 - i. You never know when the grace of God is going to break through and destroy your doubts.

A Call to Action to A Call to Fight Jude 1:1-4

- ii. You never know when the grace of God is going to break through and grab that heart.
 - iii. Have something happen, and there'll be a transformation.
6. So, that's Jude. Jude is the ADC, the *aide-de-camp* in this army. **The commander is Jesus.** Jude, a bond-servant of Jesus Christ.
- a. Now, I call him a commander because that is how he is depicted in Revelation 19. That's his second coming.
 - i. He is depicted as a commander. He comes on a white horse. John, who wrote the book, said he comes with the armies of heaven. He pictures him with a sword to strike the nation.
 - ii. So, he's battle-ready. John further says he judges and makes war. He even has the bloodstains of his enemies on his uniform.
 - iii. So, this is not gentle Jesus, meek and mild. This is giant Jesus, mighty and riled.
 - iv. This is the warrior Christ. This is the second coming. So, he is the commander of this army. And the troops were the recipients of this letter and by proxy us today. For he says in verse 1 (NKJV), ***a bondservant of Jesus Christ, and brother of James, To those who are called, sanctified by God the Father, and preserved in Jesus Christ:***

A Call to Action to A Call to Fight

Jude 1:1-4

- (a) Sanctified means set apart. And I like this, preserved in Jesus Christ.
- (b) So, God called us to himself. He set us apart. For himself. And he will protect us by himself.
- (c) You are preserved. Just latch on to that word for a moment. Preserved in Jesus Christ. It means to carefully guard or protect.
- v. I'll tell you what, it's nice to know before you're going into battle that you're going to be preserved.
- vi. It's like, okay, you're calling me to fight here. But then the commander says, yeah, but I want you to know the odds are so in our favor. We are so going to win this battle. Hands down, the ultimate victory is already ours. You're going to be preserved.
- vii. Now, there's going to be skirmishes along the way, hence the book of Jude. But you will be kept. You will be preserved. And notice in God's army, there are some great military benefits: mercy, peace, and love multiplied.
- viii. So, God's army, you're in the army now. It's not a question will I be a soldier? The question is, will you be a **good** soldier? Will you be a **faithful** soldier? Will you be a **loyal** soldier?
- ix. You and I are part of His army.

So, that's the army.

A Call to Action to A Call to Fight Jude 1:1-4

II. Let's look at the second component to this battle, **the Adversary**. And that really takes us to verse 3.

A. That's the heart of this whole introduction. **Beloved**, I like that it begins that way. Loved ones, people that I love, because he's going to talk about some really heavy, hard-hitting things.

1. So, he wants them to know they are deeply loved by him. NASB³ ***Beloved, while I was making every effort to write you about our common salvation, I felt the necessity to write to you appealing that you contend earnestly for the faith that was once for all time handed down to the [c]saints.***

B. That's something I think you need to know. The first few verses of this letter are the nicest part of this letter.

1. So, just remember that, because it's going to sort of go downhill from here, as far as niceness is concerned. It's going to go uphill in terms of revelation, but the first few verses are like the nicest part.

a. Beloved, and then the very end of the book is going to get nice again. There's that benediction, but you just kind of hold on to that.

C. So, what he's saying is this in verse 3.

1. I originally sat down, to write you a letter of encouragement about our common salvation, following Jesus and celebrating being saved, but it didn't come out that way. I'm giving you rather a call to arms to get into a fight.

A Call to Action to A Call to Fight

Jude 1:1-4

2. Warren Wiersbe wrote, “the Holy Spirit led him to put down his harp and to sound the trumpet.”
 - a. Now, I can relate to Jude. Jude is saying, I'd rather write to you something really sweet and encouraging. I didn't, but I'd rather. I mean, I relate to that. I'd much rather preach encouraging sermons.
 - i. I would much rather talk about heaven.
 - ii. I'd much rather do a series on family relationships and love within that relationship.
 - iii. I would much rather do a series on 'Giving Peace a Chance' and talk about the peace of God.
 - (a) Nobody likes to talk about fighting.
 - b. But He said, *I found it necessary*. Notice that.
 - c. I found it necessary to write to you exhorting (urging).

The word 'necessary' in the Greek, literally means pressured. It means to compress or to squeeze. The idea is to have pressure come upon you.
 - d. So the idea that I get is he sat down to write something really sweet, but the Holy Spirit kept applying the pressure until he wrote this. And what is this? What is he calling us to exactly?
3. Well, he tells us in verse 3 ***to contend earnestly or vigorously for the faith***. What does that mean? You know what contend means. It means to fight. He's saying put up a good fight for the faith.

A Call to Action to A Call to Fight

Jude 1:1-4

- a. The New Living Translation puts it this way, “defend the truth.”
 - b. The J.B. Phillips paraphrase translates it, *put up a real fight for the faith*.
 - c. The New English Bible says, *join the struggle in the defense of the faith*.
 - d. The Message Translation by Eugene Peterson puts it, 'fight with everything you have in you.'
4. So you get the picture. You get the idea. He's calling us to fight. I'll give you one more translation, the BSAT. Ever heard of the BSAT, the Brian, Slightly Altered Translation? I'll put it this way. Put on your boxing gloves. Get in the ring. Don't be afraid of your opponent. Let's do this. Let's get into the fight.
5. Now, the word contend here, happens to be an athletic term. Now, I'm going to say the Greek word, and you're going to try and see what it sounds like. So the Greek term is *epagonizomai*. Let me do it again. *Epagonizomai*. (Agony)
- a. Agonize. We get the English term agonize from that.
 - b. So picture an athlete, since it's an athletic term, Running the Olympic Marathon, or whatever he or she is running in, and just straining with the muscle to the point of agony to win. That's the idea of contend vigorously or earnestly.
 - i. You'll never fight God's battles from a sofa.

A Call to Action to A Call to Fight

Jude 1:1-4

- ii. You'll never contend for what really matters from the sidelines.
 - iii. You'll never fight God for what really matters, to the point of victory by just cruising in your lazy boy all day.
 - iv. We're going to have to decide to get up as part of the house and join the fight.
- D.** You say, wait, wait, wait, wait. What are we fighting for? What's this all about? Well, he tells you that. ***Put up a good fight for or contend earnestly for the faith.*** What is that?
- 1. ***The faith*** is a term in the New Testament that refers is the complete New Testament teaching concerning Jesus Christ.
 - a. Here's a sampling: 2 Corinthians 12. Examine yourselves whether you are in the faith.
 - i. The faith. Paul said to Timothy, the Spirit expressly said, this is 1 Timothy chapter 4, the Spirit expressly says that in the latter times some will depart from the faith.
 - b. That's what we're seeing in Jude, apostasy. Some will depart from the faith, giving heed to deceiving spirits and doctrines taught by demons.
 - c. At the end of Paul's life, he wrote to Timothy again, 2 Timothy, and he said, ***I've run the race. I've fought the fight. I've kept the faith.*** Faith.

A Call to Action to A Call to Fight

Jude 1:1-4

2. So that's the faith. The faith is the complete New Testament teaching concerning Jesus Christ, who God is, who Jesus is, how a person gets saved. Fight for that. Fight for the faith.
 3. Something else. Go back to verse 3, because he says, contend earnestly for the faith which was once for what? Help the preacher out here. What does it say? **All**.
 4. Once for all, or better, **once for all time**.
- E. The truth, the faith that we're talking about was once for all time deposited or delivered to the saints. Now, that's a very important truth, because what that means to me is, I can't tell you exactly when the book of Jude was written, but it tells me this, that let's say A. D. 100, because that's sort of like the book of Revelation.
1. By A. D. 100, all that God has done in the Bible, all that God ever wanted to say in terms of Scripture was done. There is no more revelation. He said, once for all time delivered to the saints.
 2. So it's not like God later on said, you know, I left out a few things. Here's the Koran. Oh, oh, I forgot some other stuff. Here's the Book of Mormon.
 3. No, it's once for all times delivered to the saints. Revelation from God is over.
 4. Another caveat. Let me kind of give a little distinction to this. It says we are to contend. It does not give us permission to be a contentious person. See, you can fight with a smile. You can contend and put up a good fight for, but you can be nice. You don't have to be mean.

A Call to Action to A Call to Fight Jude 1:1-4

5. In 1 Peter 3:15, he said, ***'be ready to give a defense to everyone who asks you a reason for the hope that is in you with meekness and fear, or gentleness and respect,'***

a. Okay, fight the fight, but do it with gentleness and do it with respect.

F. So you and I are called to build the truth. We are called to fight for the truth, the faith. He's going to fight for me. He's going to battle. So that's the hostility.

So we have the Army, the Hostility. Let's look at a third component in this battle,

III. **The Artillery.** I'm just going to touch on this, the artillery. So back to verse 3, exhorting you to contend earnestly for the faith, which was once for all.

A. Now get this, delivered or deposited or handed over or put under our care to steward. That's the idea.

1. Delivered to the saints. Do you know that God has given us that? It's called truth. **Truth.** It's called the Word of God. We have truth. We have His Word.

B. So not only do we fight for the faith, we don't just fight **for** the truth.

We fight **with** the truth. We combat error with truth.

1. We don't have to yell.

2. We don't have to slander.

3. We don't have to smear.

4. We don't have to send really nasty, nasty, nasty tweets.

5. We don't have to lob attacks on people.

C. All we have to do is hold up the truth.

A Call to Action to A Call to Fight Jude 1:1-4

1. Confront them with the truth.
2. Preach the truth.
3. Declare the truth.
 - a. It's exactly what Jesus did when Satan came against him in the wilderness to tempt him.
 - i. I love how Jesus handled it. Satan comes. Jesus doesn't say, you idiot devil. You know what he says? He says, it is written. It is written. It was the word of God. It was the scripture.
 - ii. He confronted error with truth.
 - b. And he did that to the religious leaders who also contended with him. He didn't tussle with them. He just said, you're in error, knowing the scriptures, the and power of God. And that's what he did.
4. He didn't tussle with them. He just said, that's why we spend most of every service we have here in the Word.
 - a. It's simply me giving you ammunition. It's you reloading. And the expectation is you'll go out into enemy territory and inflict damage on satan by declaring truth. That's the artillery.

Let me take you to the 4th and final component here.

IV. That's the **Antagonist**.

A. What are we fighting against? **Who** are we fighting against? Who are these people?

1. Well, there is a description in verse 4 that is sort of the introduction to the bulk of the epistle going forward. Let's look

A Call to Action to A Call to Fight Jude 1:1-4

at verse 4 and notice some of the characteristics of these apostates.

B. He says, *⁴For certain people have crept in unnoticed, those who were long beforehand ^[d]marked out for this condemnation, ungodly persons who turn the grace of our God into indecent behavior and deny our only Master and Lord, Jesus Christ.*

C. So, we notice a few things about them:

1. They're deceitful. He says they ***crept in unnoticed***.

- a. That is, they slip in secretly.
- b. They don't announce themselves.
- c. They're sort of undercover.
- d. They're nothing more than Satan's undercover agents.
- e. They pretend to be Christians. They sit next to Christians.

i. They'll even sing some of the songs up on the screen. But they're not.

f. They slip in unnoticed.

i. Now, Jesus **warned** that they were coming. Paul **warned** that they were coming. Peter **warned**.

ii. Jude says they've **arrived**.

- (a) They're **here**.
- (b) They're in our midst.
- (c) They have ***crept in unnoticed***, so they're deceitful.

A Call to Action to A Call to Fight Jude 1:1-4

2. They're ungodly. That's in verse 4.

- a. For some reason, Jude really liked this word because he used it a lot. He liked this description. You'll see what I mean. Go down to verse 14 & 15.

But Enoch, the seventh from Adam, prophesied about these men, also saying, Behold, the Lord comes with ten thousand of his saints to execute judgment on all, to convict all who are ungodly among them of all their ungodly deeds which they have committed in an ungodly way and of all the harsh things which ungodly sinners have spoken against him.

- b. Wow, I get it. They're ungodly, right? Verse 18, ***how they told you that there would be mockers in the last days or the last time who would walk according to their own ungodly lusts.***

3. Now, I counted 6 times in 25 verses, Jude uses the word ungodly.

- a. What is ungodly?
 - i. It means ungodlike.
 - ii. It's a person who claims to belong to God, but they are not like God in their thinking.
 - iii. They are not like God in their living. That's ungodly.
- b. They are, to use Paul's description, 2 Timothy 3, ***having a form of godliness, but denying the power thereof from such turn away.***
 - i. They are ungodly.
- c. They are Christians in name only.

A Call to Action to A Call to Fight Jude 1:1-4

- d. Nominal Christians. “Oh, yes, I've always been a Christian. My parents, grandparents, the church”.

There's another part to this description. Not only are they deceitful, not only are they ungodly,

- 4. They are manipulators of grace. Verse 4, ***who turn the grace of our God into lewdness.***

- a. You know what lewdness is? You know what a lewd person is? It's an immoral person.

- i. Lewd means immoral. It's somebody who lives for and really only thinks about satisfying his or her own passions, desires, lusts.

- b. That's a lewd person. Their mantra is, you're saved by grace, so live any way you want to.

- i. Really, you can do whatever you want, because God is so good and so loving and so tolerant. He'll just let you do anything you want. Just say you're a Christian. They turn the grace of God into lewdness.

- ii. They'll even use the Scripture to promote that belief system. They want everybody to agree with their immorality.

- iii. They want everybody to agree with their definition of morality.

- iv. They want the church to say it's okay to practice homosexuality.

A Call to Action to A Call to Fight

Jude 1:1-4

- v.** They want the church to say it's okay to abort babies.
- vi.** They want the church to say it's okay to identify as a female, even though you're a biological male.
 - (a) They want the church to say you can select any pronoun you want in the world to identify yourself.
 - (b) And if you don't, we want to shut that church down.
 - (c) If you don't agree with us, we will bring the full force of even government, if need be, to say that you are hate-mongering.
 - (d) And it's hate speech, because you don't agree with our definition of morality.
- vii.** I could give you thousands of examples of that.
- c.** Now, Jude is saying this 2,000 years ago. And here we are today, this far down the road. So it shouldn't surprise us because we find it in the Scripture. Every generation faces it.
- d.** At some point you draw a line and you say love means telling truth to people. That's what love means. I love you enough to tell you the truth. And I'll accept the consequences. But I love you enough to tell you the truth.

So here's the final description. Not only are they deceitful or ungodly, not only do they manipulate grace, but they deny Christ.

A Call to Action to A Call to Fight Jude 1:1-4

5. They deny Christ. For he says in verse 4, ***they turn the grace of God into lewdness and deny the only Lord God and the Lord Jesus Christ.***
 - a. Now, I know in reading that, it sounds like Jude is referring to two different persons, God the Father and then Jesus Christ. The Greek construction makes it refer to one person, the same person. A better translation is this: ***They denied our only God and Lord Jesus Christ.***
 - b. But that's the point. They want to name the name of Christ.
 - i. Oh yeah, I'm a Christian. I go to a church. I'm a believer.
 - ii. They just don't want to live under the authority of Christ.
 - iii. They want to name his name, but they don't want to do what he says. And I kind of remember Jesus talking about that. Right?
 - (a) In Matthew chapter 7, ***not everyone who says to me, Lord, Lord, will enter the kingdom of heaven, but only those who do the will of my Father in heaven.***
 - iv. I remember Jesus saying in Luke chapter 6, ***why do you call me Lord, Lord, but you don't do what I say?***

A Call to Action to A Call to Fight

Jude 1:1-4

- D.** So, fight the fight. You ready to step into the ring? I am. I kind of look at it this way. We've had quite a year, and I've watched what's happening, and I listen. I have my ear to the ground. I listen to what the, the world is saying, and I listen to what politicians are saying, and it doesn't look favorable for us in terms of how the world is going to treat us in the coming few years. And I kind of look at it this way.
- E.** I've had a good life. I've had a good run. I've had a good ministry.
- F.** And now that my daughters are dating, maybe the Lord wants me to have a jail ministry.
- G.** All joking aside, it could come to that, that if you speak the truth, and you stand up against this crazy immorality, they'll put you in jail. So send me notes if I end up there. Maybe we will be cellmates.

Conclusion:

Hey, I just want to close by saying, I hope you know my heart in this. It's a heart of love. I'd rather talk about peace and encouragement and Jesus coming back, but I think, I believe that this is a series for such a time as this.

Let's pray and prepare our hearts for communion.