

# JUDE: Lesson 2

## Contending With Creeps in the Church

23 June 2023

Read verses 1-4

**Who needs to earnestly contend for the faith?**

- Them that are sanctified by God the Father, and preserved in Jesus Christ, and called (vs 1).
- Those who have received mercy and peace and love (vs 2).
- Those who are beloved of the Lord (vs 3).

**Why must we contend for the faith?**

- Because men who are guided by the Devil are going to creep into your fellowship and try to pervert the work of God among you and destroy your faith (vs 4).
- Because our kind, loving nature might tempt us to tolerate people and teachings that we should never tolerate.
- Because some may make exceptions and accept unbiblical teachings if it benefits church growth and more giving.
  - These are all things that will ruin what God has established in a group of believers if we don't keep our guard up and earnestly contend (resist and oppose) against those who aim to pervert the truth and ruin the church.
  - Saved people who compromise the word of God cause more damage to the church than any atheist, cultist, or hell-bound heathen.

**24 things the bible says about these "certain men" who creep into your church to ruin it:**

1. **They creep in unawares** (vs 4). They are subtle and sneaky.
2. **They are ungodly** (vs 4). They talk about God, but they are nothing like Him.
3. **They turn the grace of God into lasciviousness** (vs 4). They use God's grace as a licence to sin. They'll tell you that it doesn't matter how you live because you're saved by grace. Such philosophy will ruin the church. It does matter to God how you conduct yourself in this life.
4. **They deny the only Lord God** (vs 4). They deny His lordship. They don't want Him to dictate how they should live. Remember, it is the Lord Jesus who saved you (Rom 10:13, 10:9-10).
5. **They defile the flesh** (vs 8).
6. **They despise dominion** (vs 8).
7. **They speak evil of dignities** (vs 8).
8. **They speak evil of those things which they know not** (vs 10).
9. **They corrupt themselves** (vs 10).
10. **They have gone the way of Cain** (vs 11)
11. **They run greedily after the error of Balaam** (vs 11).
12. **They perished in the gainsaying of Core** (vs 11).
13. **They are spots in your feasts** (vs 12).
14. **They are clouds without water** (vs 12).
15. **They are trees whose fruit withereth** (vs 12).
16. **They foam out their own shame** (vs 13).
17. **They are wandering stars** (vs 13).
18. **They are murmurers** (vs 16).
19. **They are complainers** (vs 16).
20. **They walk after their own lusts** (vs 16).
21. **They speak great swelling words.** (vs 16).
22. **They separate themselves** (vs 19).
23. **They are sensual** (vs 19).
24. **They have not the Spirit** (vs 19).

All believers are guilty of some of these traits sometimes, but when they respond with sorrow and repentance and a desire to obey the Lord and become more holy, all is made right. They are not a threat.

The warning here is to watch out for anyone who does any of these sinful things and tries to convince others in the church that it is acceptable behavior. They are a danger to the members of the church.

Christ died to save us from our sins (Matthew 1:21) and He expects us to help others to be converted from the error of their ways (James 5:20). Don't ever leave someone thinking that they can live in sin after they are saved.

**Galatians 2:3-5** If anyone in your church brings someone into the church who aims to turn you from the truth, don't give them place even for an hour. Their only purpose is to mess up churches "*privily*," not openly.

**2 Peter 2:1** The devil sends false prophets and false teachers among church people to "*privily*" introduce "*damnable heresies*" into the church. These are people who deny the Lord that bought them. They're saved people who refuse to let the Lord have control.

**2 Corinthians 11:1-4** Here the Apostle Paul is concerned about our condition in the day when we are presented to Jesus Christ. Satan is going to subtly (secretly) work to try and corrupt you by preaching another Jesus (one who sinned) and another Spirit (one who is NOT holy).

**Proverbs 16:18** Pride and a haughty spirit will lead to destruction and a fall whether you are saved or lost. Those who creep into the church are going to try and get you to exalt your views and opinions above God or God's word. Stay away from them.

**Acts 26:24-26** Paul told King Festus that he spoke the truth openly, not in a corner (not privily).

**John 18:19-21** Jesus Christ spoke openly to the world. He said nothing in secret. We should not have to teach anything in secret.

- Men who creep into the church know that they disagree with the preacher, the doctrines, the bible version, and the leadership. They can't openly oppose the leadership, so they do everything in secret.

---

Don't let your desire to be kind to someone cause you to compromise the truth. If there's someone who is telling people that it's okay to sin, we cannot allow it for one hour even to the smallest degree.

Jesus died to pay for sins. Clearly, He wants us to stop sinning now.