

## Lessons from Jude 2 & 3: Contending for the Faith

My early connection with Letter of Jude was Jude 3 -4, about contending for the faith from the perspective of our Christian Faith being under attack from within and without. Jude warned the body of Christ that some “godless men” crept into the Christian community and interpreted God’s grace as licence to engage in immoral activities and denied Jesus Christ our only Sovereign and Lord.

This perspective is that the faith contention happens to the Christian Community but we also experience the faith contention in our personal lives as believers. To place the contention for the faith in our personal lives, firstly, it is important that we accept ‘immoral’ means not following principles of right and wrong, and it has similar meaning as unethical, bad, wrongful, wicked, evil, foul, unprincipled, unscrupulous, dishonorable, dishonest, disreputable, corrupt, **sinful**, impure, shameless, promiscuous, loose and shady. Keep in mind that 1 John 1:8 says “If we say that we have not sinned, we are fooling ourselves, and the truth isn’t in our hearts.” Secondly, we need to acknowledge that whenever we trust in anything including our wisdom, strength, wealth or connections over God we are denying Jesus Christ as our only Sovereign and Lord.

Contention for the faith also needs to be a personal one as Christianity is a personal relationship with God. This is why Paul told the Philippians in Phil. 2: 12-13 that in his absence, they should work out their personal salvation with fear and trembling and that it is God that works in them to will and do God’s good pleasure. The Letter of Jude is a warning to us as believers that if we profess to be Christians we should not live in a manner that dishonors God. As Christians we are a work-in-progress and we have to contend for the faith as we are bombarded relentlessly by thoughts, views, ideas and/or images that are contrary to our faith and /or seek to draw us away or distracts us from doing God’s will for our lives or God’s pleasure.

In addition to exploring Letter of Jude as a personal faith contention, we will also look at it from the perspective of Jude as a leader in the Christian Community as example of the kind of leader we should be in the workplace. We are expected to confront whatever is wrong is in our lives and as leaders we are called to confront wrongs in the workplace and/or community.

“Confrontation is a necessary evil. No one enjoys it, but it must be done in order to rectify, purify, and unify the organization. When leaders refuse to confront wrongs, the atmosphere can become lethargic and unfocused. When leaders don’t stand for something, their people will fall for anything.” – John Maxwell.

I pray that the good Lord will open our eyes to wrongs we need to confront in our personal lives and/or workplaces/communities.

Have a blessed day.