

A Servant of Christ

Jude 1-2

We begin our study tonight with the greeting that Jude extended to the church. We only get one chance to make a first impression and it is apparent that Jude made a good first impression with these introductory words.

We need to understand that these were not the easiest of circumstances for the early church. The Holy Spirit was now indwelling all who came to Christ in salvation, but they faced grave opposition from several fronts. The Romans wanted to rid the world in which they dominated of any Christian influence and numerous apostates were relentless in seeking to infiltrate and disrupt the church. It is under these conditions that Jude makes these bold statements.

At the onset of his letter, Jude makes it very clear where he stands in regard to the Lord and His church. He has boldly aligned Himself with Jesus Christ and makes no apologies concerning his association with the church. Jude was settled in his faith and wanted to establish a solid foundation from which this letter would develop.

As I read these opening comments I was encouraged and challenged concerning my faith. I was reminded once again that our faith in Christ is of utmost importance and there are issues in life that are not open to debate. I am settled in what I believe and the world cannot change that! As we begin this wonderful book, I want to consider the **challenges** that Jude presented so many years ago as we think on: **A Servant of Christ.**

I. Jude's Introduction (1a) – **Jude, the servant of Jesus Christ, and brother of James.** We have already discovered last week that Jude was the half-brother of Christ our Lord and brother of James. This opening introduction reveals much to us concerning the character, compassion, and commitment of Jude. Notice:

A. His Submission – It is interesting to note that he doesn't refer to himself as the brother of Jesus Christ, even though he had every right too. He refers to himself simply as the **servant of Jesus Christ**. This is the word "*doulos*" and any time you encounter the word servant in the New Testament, it always means a "*slave or bond-servant.*" Here we discover Jude's humility and submission to the Lordship of Christ.

- We need to follow Jude's example in submitting to the Lordship of Christ in our lives as well. Many believers had no problem with salvation, but they cannot seem to humble themselves in submission. If Christ is not Lord and Master of your life then you are lacking in your relationship with Him! **Ephes. 6:6-7 – Not with eyeservice, as menpleasers; but as the servants of Christ, doing the will of God from the heart; [7] With good will doing service, as to the Lord, and not to men:**

B. His Sovereign – Jude identifies himself as a servant of [Jesus Christ](#). I can assure you that Jude wasn't doing this for his health or personal gain. He lived in an environment that was hostile toward Christ and those who chose to follow Him. Jude was not dismayed or deterred by this opposition. He publicly declared his allegiance and identification with Christ.

- We may need to note that this was a learning process for Jude, both emotionally and spiritually. Jude and the others in his family did not embrace Christ as the Messiah until after the resurrection. [John 7:4b-5 – If thou do these things, shew thyself to the world.](#) [5] [For neither did his brethren believe in him.](#) Now Jude has embraced Christ as the Messiah, Savior of the world and he has submitted to Him. He is no longer living in the past, but has received the Lord in salvation and is seeking to serve Him.

- Many today have a problem identifying with the sovereignty of Christ. He is Lord of lords and King of kings. There are none beside Him. All have submitted their lives to something, but all have not submitted to Christ. [Luke 16:13 – No servant can serve two masters: for either he will hate the one, and love the other; or else he will hold to the one, and despise the other. Ye cannot serve God and mammon.](#)

C. His Standing – Jude not only identifies as the servant of Jesus Christ, but he also declares that he is the [brother of James](#). Jude was not well known, but he was confident that most had heard of James. We know that James was also the brother of Christ, but he was also the pastor of the great and thriving church at Jerusalem. By identifying with James, Jude has publicly and unashamedly identified with the church of Christ. He was not a Christian of convenience or one who sought to hide his faith.

- What a profound lesson for us today. We live in a region and nation where we can worship freely. We need not fear physical harm or persecution as we gather, and yet many hide their faith from the world. They are willing to attend church, but it seems as if they want to “check” their Christianity at the door as they leave. I pray that God will embolden us to identify publicly and unashamedly with our blessed Lord and His church! We have been silent and fearful too long. It is time to arise and let the world know where we stand. It is time to proclaim Christ to the world.

I. Jude's Introduction (1a)

II. Jude's Exhortation (1b) – [Jude, the servant of Jesus Christ, and brother of James, to them that are sanctified by God the Father, and preserved in Jesus Christ, and called:](#) Jude reveals whom his letter is addressed to as well as an exhortation for them. Notice:

A. He Speaks of Sanctification – [to them that are sanctified by God the Father.](#) Here Jude reveals the condition and expectation for all believers. The idea of [sanctification](#) means “*to be separated from the profane things, cleansed, and dedicated to God.*” They were no longer of

the world, but of God. They were expected to live their lives as such. They no longer had the right to live only to please themselves.

- Sanctification is a subject that is little dealt with in our day. I am convinced of the eternal security of the believer, but that is no license to sin and it certainly doesn't release us of our obligation to live our lives in a way that avoids sin and pleases God! We have been bought with a price and are obligated and expected to live sanctified lives! 2 Cor.6:17 – Wherefore come out from among them, and be ye separate, saith the Lord, and touch not the unclean thing; and I will receive you. 2 Tim.2:21 – If a man therefore purge himself from these, he shall be a vessel unto honour, sanctified, and meet for the master's use, and prepared unto every good work.

B. He Speaks of Preservation (1b) – to them that are sanctified by God the Father, and preserved in Jesus Christ. Surely this brought comfort to those who might have been struggling with their sanctification. Jude knew that man in and of himself cannot live a life that pleases God. The only way that is possible is through the enabling of the Holy Spirit. They faced enormous pressure from without and within regarding their faith.

- Jude knew they were not alone. He knew they were preserved in Jesus Christ. That has the idea of “*attending to carefully, to guard, to keep in the state one is in.*” God had put a hedge about them and they were secure in Him. He had saved them and they would remain in that state of eternal salvation!

- You may feel as if the pressures of the Christian life are more than you can bear. You may wonder if you will be able to endure. Take courage in the Lord; we are not alone. He is attending to our every need and He is well able to keep us in Him! Jn.6:39 – And this is the Father's will which hath sent me, that of all which he hath given me I should lose nothing, but should raise it up again at the last day. Jn.6:40 – And this is the will of him that sent me, that every one which seeth the Son, and believeth on him, may have everlasting life: and I will raise him up at the last day.

C. He Speaks of Obligation (1b) – to them that are sanctified by God the Father, and preserved in Jesus Christ, and called. Here Jude reminds the believers that they have been called. This is a precious and serious state. It definitely requires commitment and responsibility. The called have received an *invitation to serve in a particular manner.* God had made no mistake. He had called them with a purpose and a plan for their lives.

- We would do well to consider the call of God. We hear much about that in regard to preachers and missionaries, but all God's children have been called to a life of service. God has a work that is specific for each of us. He is in no way dependent upon us to accomplish His will, but He does have a work that He desires all of us to perform. 2 Tim.1:9 – Who hath saved us, and called us with an holy calling, not according to our works, but according to his own purpose and grace, which was given us in Christ Jesus before the world began. The problem isn't understanding the call; the problem is submitting to the call and doing what God desires of us!

I. Jude's Introduction (1a)

II. Jude's Exhortation (1b)

III. Jude's Supplication (2) – *Mercy unto you, and peace, and love, be multiplied.* Jude closes this introduction with a prayer of supplication.

A. The Intercession – Here Jude prays for three specific things in the lives of all believers. Each of these are important to us as well.

1. Mercy – This has the idea of “*kindness or good will toward the miserable and afflicted, joined with a desire to help them.*” Jude not only expressed a desire that they experience mercy, but he revealed that he was committed to standing alongside them in their struggles. We need to pray and seek mercy in our day as well. We need hearts of compassion for all men, especially among fellow believers. *Gal.6:10 – As we have therefore opportunity, let us do good unto all men, especially unto them who are of the household of faith.*

2. Peace – Knowing the turmoil and adversity they faced, Jude prayed that they enjoy peace. This means “*tranquility, harmony, security, and prosperity.*” He prayed for the peace of God, peace with God, and peace with one another. We desperately need peace in our churches today. Many lack peace with God and we are especially lacking in peace with each other.

3. Love – As with many references to love in the New Testament, this is Agape love. It is love as God loves; love that has no restraint or limits. Godly love will go a long way in healing the hurts of our churches, lives, communities, and world. If we could love as God loves, we would not focus on the adversity and differences; we would focus on the need at hand and that is the salvation of sinners and edification of saints.

B. The Increase – Jude prayed for three specific areas and he closes his prayer with the desire that these areas be multiplied. Clearly they were already present in their lives, but they needed to increase. They were heading in the right direction, but they needed growth in the fundamental areas of Christian service.

- I don't know about you, but I have been challenged by the greeting of Jude. Personally I need to increase some areas in my life. I need more love and compassion for others. I need to

take a fresh look at the call of God on my life. I need to consider once again to whom I belong and my responsibilities to Him, His church, and those He died to save!

Has God spoken to you in regard to specific areas in your life that need attention? I don't need to call them out; the Holy Spirit has already done that. He is speaking right now, but it is up to you to respond. Why not come and begin afresh and new in your service unto the Lord. If you have never trusted Christ, He wants to save you and use you for His glory. Come to Him as He leads.