

Memory Verse

Jude 4

For certain persons have crept in unnoticed, those who were long beforehand marked out for this condemnation, ungodly persons who turn the grace of our God into licentiousness and deny our only Master and Lord, Jesus Christ.

GRACELIFE



CHURCH

JUDE

Defend the Faith,
Grow in Grace

Pt. 4 – The Character of
False Teachers Pt. 1

Jude was the brother of Jesus, and wrote before 70AD. He was going to write to Jewish followers of Christ about their *common salvation* and wanted the love, mercy and peace of God to be lavished upon them. However, he was pressed because of a problem. He challenged them, and us, to *earnestly contend for the faith and stand firm in and for the truth.*

Jude 4

For certain persons [men] have crept in unnoticed, those who were long beforehand marked out for this condemnation, ungodly persons [men] who turn the grace of our God into licentiousness and deny our only Master and Lord, Jesus Christ. [NASB]

A. 4a – The Entrance of False Teachers

Jude says *certain people, persons, or "men"* have *crept in unnoticed*. These individuals *came in to the assembly secretly, or stealthily*. These may have been travelling preachers, common in the early church. And/or individuals who *arose from within the churches*. Scripture talks about both.

A. 4a – The Entrance of False Teachers

In *Acts 20*, Paul met with the Ephesian elders or pastors. *Acts 20:29-31* - "I know that after my departure savage wolves will come in among you, not sparing the flock; **30**and from among your own selves men will arise, speaking perverse things, to draw away the disciples after them. **31**"Therefore be on the alert, remembering that night and day for a period of three years I did not cease to admonish each one with tears."

A. 4a – The Entrance of False Teachers

Paul warned what would occur, then and today! *Where God has His truth, satan has his lies.*

This warning is in the Old and New Testament. We need *to wake up, and be aware* of how important it is to **know what God says in His word**. Also in *Jude 4*, we start to see the connection to *2 Peter*.

A. 4a – The Entrance of False Teachers

2 Peter 2:1 - But false prophets also arose among the people [*in the past*], just as there will [*in the future*] also be false teachers among you, who will secretly introduce destructive heresies, even denying the Master who bought them, bringing swift destruction upon themselves.

A. 4a – The Entrance of False Teachers

Peter warned his readers, *mainly Jews*, that false teachers or false prophets (a *more Jewish phrase*) would arrive. He warned they would *secretly bring in destructive heresies or false doctrines*. So much so, to deny the Master Jesus who died for their sins. What is the result? *Swift destruction, unless they repent and trust in Christ.*

B. 4b – The Condemnation of False Teachers

Just as Jude says these false teachers have entered the assemblies, he is quickly says their *condemnation or judgment is just as certain.*

Verse 4 is his set up for *verses 5-16(18)*, which talk about God's judgment on a *variety of people in Israel's past.* Jude gives **specifics** of how God judged in the past and will judge these false teachers in the present and future. This was to *warn and assure them* and us **God will do this.**

B. 4b – The Condemnation of False Teachers

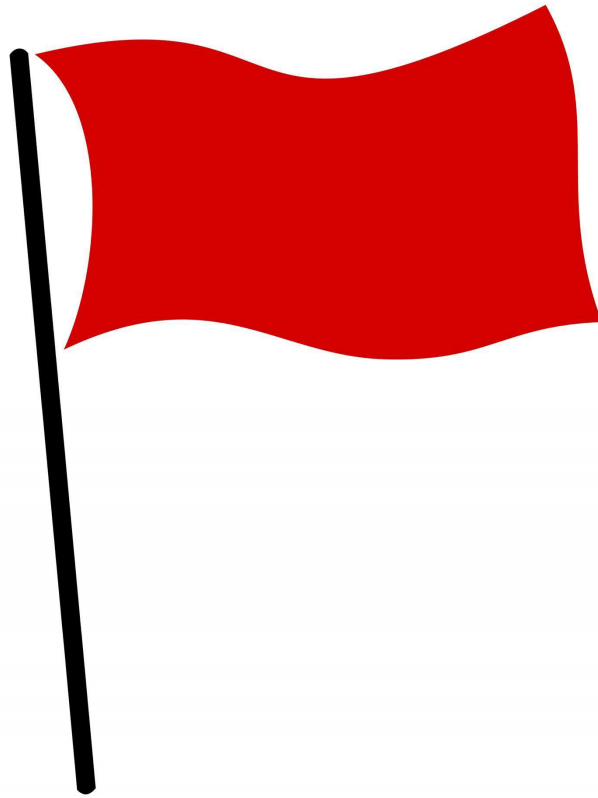
These men *were long beforehand marked out for this condemnation...* It has been written beforehand of what will happen to them.

Scripture warned that they were coming and God has determined that false teachers and false brethren are going to be judged. They are subtle and **they will be judged!**

B. 4b – The Condemnation of False Teachers

Jesus said *You shall know them by their fruits.* It takes time for fruit to grow, and when it grows, and stinks, *you know you are dealing a deceiver,* no matter what they say. Look at their **doctrine**, and look at their **lifestyle**. Are their words, attitude and actions *contrary too or in correlation with* the Bible? The *NET Bible* adds: *men who long ago were marked out for the condemnation I am about to describe.*

C. 4c – The Ungodliness of False Teachers



C. 4c – The Ungodliness of False Teachers

The *first red flag* that someone is a false teacher is *their personal life is sinful*. **No church leader is perfect**. Though pastors are called to a higher standard, we still struggle. *Every leader is human*. A *Godly pastor/teacher* does **not** live a lifestyle of constant sin. Some *true teachers* become trapped in a sinful lifestyle, which disqualifies them from leading a church. That is **sad** and it does occur.

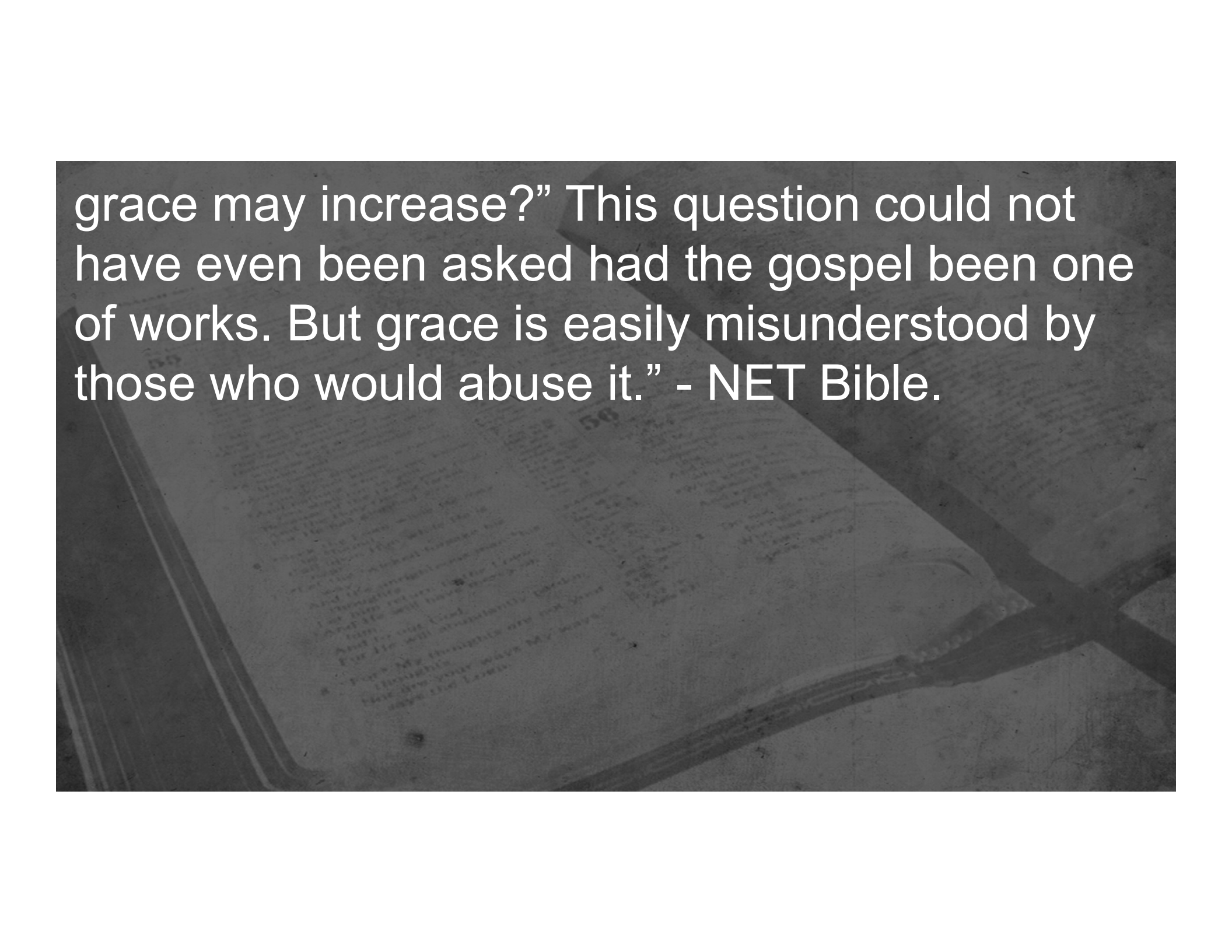
C. 4c – The Ungodliness of False Teachers

Ungodly is a general word that means *wicked, failing to honor what is sacred, particularly in a ceremonial sense, and in one's character, attitudes and actions*. It is the *opposite of God's character*. It is **not** a minor problem. Satan is ungodly. We find this word in *Jude 15*, as well as *2 Peter 2:5, 6, and 3:7*, describing the character of false teachers. They *lie, cheat and steal*. Another way to say this is: **godless**.

D. 4d – The Licentiousness of False Teachers

Because *they are ungodly or godless*, their *lifestyle* is godless. Jude comes to the *second red flag* describing false teachers: their *licentiousness*. This is **2 fold**: *their own sinful life*, and *their sinful teaching that relates to their sinful life*. They turn *God's grace into licentiousness*. They turn God's grace into a license to sin. This is *part of their personal lifestyle*, and *they teach it!*

“*Grk* “debauchery.” This is the same word Peter uses to predict what the false teachers will be like ([2 Pet 2:2](#), [7](#), [18](#)). *Turned the grace of our God into a license for evil.* One of the implications that the gospel in the apostolic period was truly a gospel of *grace* was the fact that the enemies of the gospel could pervert it into *license*. If it were a gospel of works, no such abuse could be imagined. Along these lines, note [Rom 6:1](#)- “Are we to remain in sin so that

An open Bible is shown in a dark, grayscale-like setting. The pages are slightly aged and the text is faint. Overlaid on the top half of the image is a white text block. The text reads: "grace may increase?" This question could not have even been asked had the gospel been one of works. But grace is easily misunderstood by those who would abuse it." - NET Bible.

grace may increase?" This question could not have even been asked had the gospel been one of works. But grace is easily misunderstood by those who would abuse it." - NET Bible.

D. 4d – The Licentiousness of False Teachers

Because they live a sinful life and are **not saved**, they encourage others to live the same way they do! These people in Jude's day, and ours, say it's ok to sin. They *preach cheap grace*, or *hyper grace*, and live a life that is sinful, though giving lip service to holiness. Church history up to this day is full of examples of *so-called pastors, preachers, and teachers* whose lifestyle was corrupt.

D. 4d – The Licentiousness of False Teachers

Some say these men were *early forerunners of Gnosticism*, which arrived in the 2nd and 3rd centuries. *Gnostics* had their own writings, some of which are well known in some circles. One belief was the *flesh is evil and the spirit is good*. Because the spirit is good, it didn't matter what you did with your body, so you could sin all you want because it wasn't the spirit.

E. 4e – The Denial of False Teachers

The *third red flag* of a false teacher in our study today is their denial of Jesus. They had a wrong view of who Jesus is and what He came to do. These men, and we can include women, *deny that Jesus is the only Master and Lord*. This is **why** they do what they do, and who they are. The reason they live a sinful life, is because they deny the Lord.

E. 4e – The Denial of False Teachers

2 Peter 2:1 - But false prophets also arose among the people, just as there will also be false teachers among you, who will secretly introduce destructive heresies, even denying the Master who bought them, bringing swift destruction upon themselves. – Listen carefully to what people say. **Be discerning.** If you are not sure what someone means by the words – salvation, Jesus, the gospel, etc. ask.

E. 4e – The Denial of False Teachers

There are Godly teachers. Scripture talks about them as well. In this series, I want to **contrast** what Scripture says about the warnings of false teachers, with character qualities of a church leader should have:

1 Timothy 3:1-7, 6:3-5, and Titus 1:5-9.

1 Timothy 6:3-5 - If anyone advocates a different doctrine and does not agree with sound words, those of our Lord Jesus Christ, and with the doctrine conforming to godliness, 4he is conceited *and* understands nothing; but he has a morbid interest in controversial questions and disputes about words, out of which arise envy, strife, abusive language, evil suspicions, 5and constant friction between men of depraved mind and deprived of the truth, who suppose that godliness is a means of gain.

E. 4e – The Denial of False Teachers

God has high requirements for leaders. *Not sinless perfection, but sanctified progression.* God's leaders are examples in family and the church. They are to represent God's character to others. In *contrast* to the ungodliness of false teachers, Paul says those in leadership positions in the church are to live and proclaim doctrine that conforms to **godliness**, or Christ likeness.

Please take a minute to fill out your

NEXT STEPS

At [GraceLife Church](#), our mission is drawing people into a growing relationship with Jesus Christ!

TODAY'S MESSAGE CHALLENGE IS:
