

Memory Verse

Jude 21

**keep yourselves in the love of God, waiting
anxiously for the mercy of our Lord Jesus
Christ to eternal life.**

GRACELIFE



CHURCH

JUDE

Defend the Faith,
Grow in Grace

Pt. 10 – Growing in
Grace and Truth

We start our *transition* from defending the faith, *being warned about false teachers, their teaching, their attitude and their sinful lifestyle* to growing in grace, and added the word truth. We have seen many warnings, principles and specifics about false teachers and why we need to know what we believe and why we believe it. But it is also important to know that when we defend the truth of God's word, we do so with *gentleness, respect and grace*.

In verses 20 Jude begins with the second, “*But you...*” contrasting the false teachers to the audience who listened to this letter being read for the first time, and times after that. He gives the **solution to the problem**. The false teachers are the sickness, and he gives the cure: *Become **mature** believers, by growing in grace and truth.* The way we **contend for the faith**, is not only to *be aware of false teachers and their teaching,* but to ***grow strong in grace and truth.***

Jude 20-23

But you, beloved, building yourselves up on your most holy faith, praying in the Holy Spirit, 21keep yourselves in the love of God, waiting anxiously for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ to eternal life. 22And have mercy on some, who are doubting; 23save others, snatching them out of the fire; and on some have mercy with fear, hating even the garment polluted by the flesh.

A. 20 – Building and Praying

Verses 20-21 form **one sentence**, and *verse 20* is the introduction to the *main clause*, which is in *verse 21*. He starts by contrasting the *readers and listeners* or “*you all*.” He also uses the same phrase in *verse 3*, translated “*beloved*.” This is a very affectionate term. We could phrase it, “*dear friends*,” or, “*dear brothers and sisters*.” He writes to those whom he **loves** and **challenges** them.

A. 20 – Building and Praying

Jude has referenced the Old Testament in various ways. He called his readers and those who listened to *go back to the teachings of the Apostles*. He *points people back to the Word of God*, which I try to exhort you to go back to! We *build ourselves up*, when we **read** the Bible, **study** the Bible, **obey** and **apply** the Bible, and **share** the Bible with others.

A. 20 – Building and Praying

He *talks about praying in the Holy Spirit*. This phrase has caused lots of confusion.

Jude gives a general statement. Praying in the Spirit is *praying in cooperation with what the Spirit of God wants for you in your life and what His will is*. When we are filled with the Word of God, we *know what we ought to pray*, and **will pray the things that are aligned with what He wants**.

A. 20 – Building and Praying

Acts 4:23-31, indicates this. Peter and John were before the religious council, who told them to stop preaching in the Name of Jesus. They said “*no*” and then were *released and joined other believers and prayed*. They extolled God as the Creator, *quoted Scripture*, and asked Him to look at what the religious leaders were doing.

A. 20 – Building and Praying

Verse 31 – And when they had prayed, the place in which they were gathered together was shaken, and they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and **continued** to speak the word of God with boldness.

Their prayer was to honor God and proclaim His word. They were filled with the Spirit because they prayed according to the Spirit's direction and His desire.

B. 21 – Loving and Waiting

Keep yourselves in the love of God. This is the **main clause** in the sentence. *Building, praying and waiting*, all **point to this phrase**. Those 3 words and phrases they are connected with are like *arrows pointing to keeping yourselves in the love of God*.

Nothing we do or don't do can take us away from God's grace and nothing we do or don't do can add to God's grace in our life.

Believers should make God's love for them the center of their lives (compare Phil 2:12–13). It is not that God's love is dependent on their actions, but that their actions are a result of experiencing God's love enveloping their lives.

When believers listen to false teachings, they experience atrophy in their relationship with Christ. The response to false teachings should be both speaking against them, as Jude has done throughout the book, and abiding in God's love, as proclaimed by the Scriptures. – *Faithlife Study Bible*

B. 21 – Loving and Waiting

Verses 1 and 24 are clear: **He keeps us!** That's *God's grace!* However, we are *responsible*. We are to *build ourselves up, pray and wait* for the return of the Lord. This is how we “*keep*” or *guard* ourselves in the love of God.

B. 21 – Loving and Waiting

*Biblical waiting is not passive waiting. The “waiting” in Scripture is active expectation, though you may not know when something will happen or the specifics of what to do. While you sit at your table, your “waiter” or “waitress” gathers your food and drinks to bring to you. They are “waiting” on you! They are **active**! It’s the same thing as we *await our Lord’s return*. We are actively waiting, anticipating His return in our lifetime.*

B. 21 – Loving and Waiting

Jesus **will** physically return, set up His Kingdom, judge the living and the dead, rule for 1000 years and into eternity. Other events take place, but *those are the basics*. When we **know** Jesus is coming back, *partly for us and partly to judge the world, and partly to fulfill His promises to Israel*, it leads us to *live a life that honors Him, that loves Him, because we learn about His love for us. **By growing, praying and waiting, we stay in the love of God!***

B. 21 – Loving and Waiting

Verses 22-23 contain 3 principles for dealing with 3 types of people and witnessing for Christ.

Jude has already spoken of God's judgment on the false teachers, so he is **not** referring to them, but to **those who negatively affected by the false teachers and their heretical teaching.**

C. 22 – Be Merciful to the Doubting

This is the first type of person who has been *infected, affected or defeated* by false teaching. This person may be a young believer, a gullible believer, or one who has not heard solid teaching. He or she is *taken advantage of by false teachers!* They begin to doubt their salvation, and the validity of Christianity because of the excess and deception of false teachers.

C. 22 – Be Merciful to the Doubting

One of satan's tactics to *get you to turn away from God* is to *instill doubt about His truth in your mind*. God preserves us, but in *our actions and attitudes*, we can step away from Him for a time. There are times when we **all doubt** the Bible. We **doubt** God's love. We **doubt** that we are saved.

Living in fear, is not living in grace!

C. 22 – Be Merciful to the Doubting

Someone who is doubting, needs mercy! Yes, they need truth, but they *need truth given to them in a merciful, compassionate, and patient way*. One of the **worst things** we can do with someone who is on shaky ground in *their faith and relationship with Christ* is to come in with both “**truth guns**” blazing, and blast them with Bible verses and *tell them to just believe*.

D. 23a – Save Some by Snatching

This is the second type of person *infected by false teaching*. This individual is not saved. This person has *bought in hook, line and sinker with what the error is*, and perhaps even spread it. They may *tell you about this wonderful teacher* online or tv and you watch or listen, and he or she is preaching heresy. You become baffled how this person could be so *easily* sucked into error.

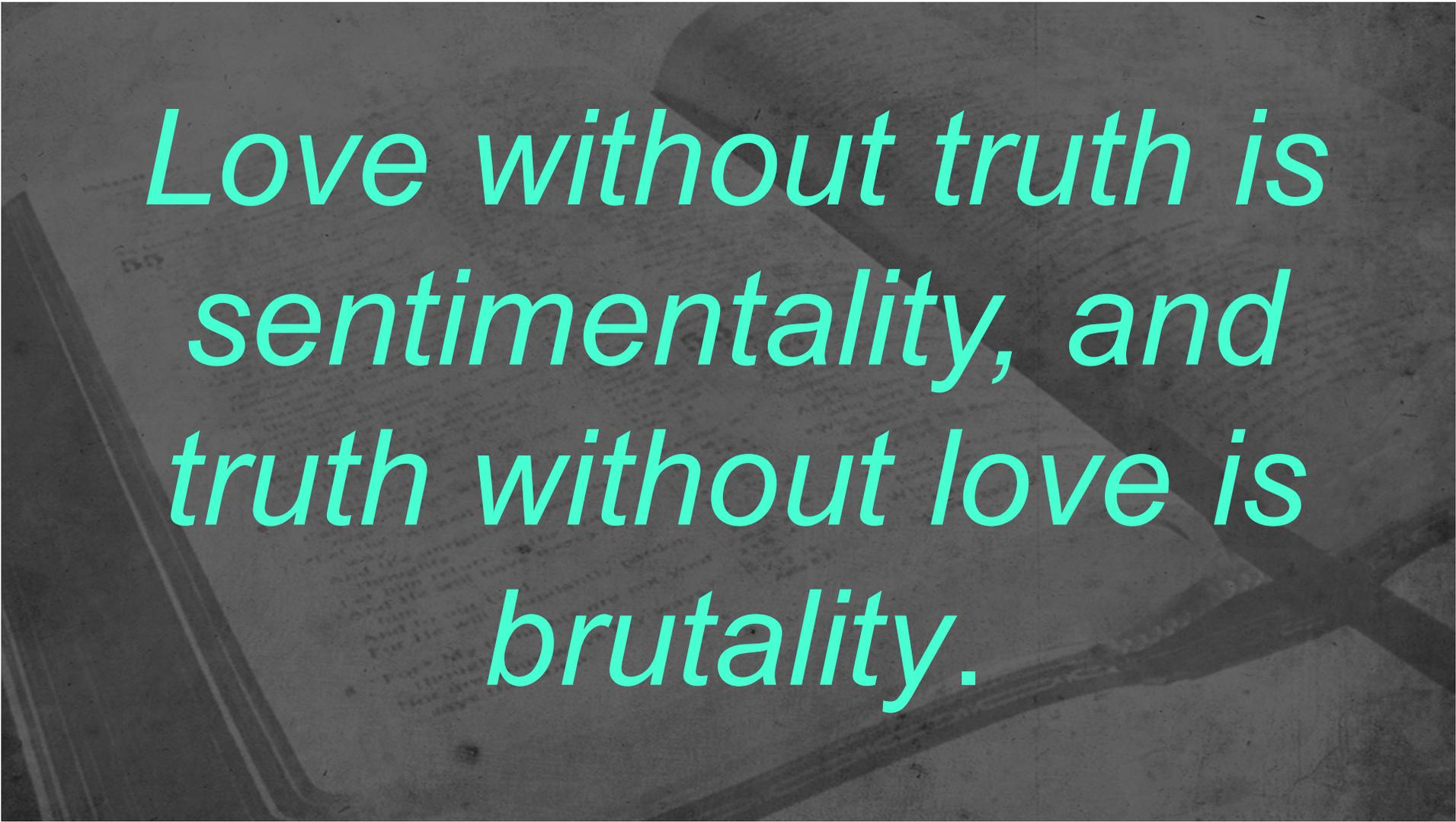
E. 23b – Have Mercy while Fearing

This is the third type of person infected with the *poison of the false teachers*. Jude again says to *have mercy on this type of individual*, but use discernment and be aware of yourself.

Consider yourself, lest you be caught up in error! Some say this “*fear*” is the “*fear of God*.”

“Joining a *fear of God* to *mercy* is an important balance when involved in disciplinary action. On the one hand, being merciful without fear can turn to unwarranted sympathy for the individual, absolving him of personal responsibility, but fearing God without showing mercy can turn into personal judgment and condemnation.”

NET Bible



*Love without truth is
sentimentality, and
truth without love is
brutality.*

E. 23b – Have Mercy while Fearing

Jude adds, *hating even the garments stained by the flesh*. This is a vivid illustration of a *long garment or tunic* that was worn under the outer clothing. We would call it **underwear**. All clothing needs to be washed. Jude uses this image to *talk about the effects of sin* on someone as a **stain**. He *could be referring* to the sin nature or sexual sins and more, people become involved in with false teaching.