

“How To Spot A Fake, Part 1”

Jude 4-16

Sermon Series: “The Faith That Stands And The Fake That Falls”

-3 Characteristics of False Teachers (Fakes) in v. 4:

- 1. The future of false teachers is that they will be condemned.**
- 2. The spiritual condition of false teachers is that they are unsaved.**
- 3. The root and expression of this condition is perverting the grace of God and denying the Lordship of Christ.**

-Let's examine each of these characteristics, the first two today and the third one next week. Verses 5-16 develop the first two characteristics.

1. The future of false teachers is that they will be condemned (v. 4).

The Greek word used here means “to write beforehand.” These ungodly false teachers are destined for judgment unless they repent, but they are still dangerous at the moment. Verses 14-15 speak of Jesus coming back to bring judgment against all the ungodly (unsaved), including false teachers. This was prophesied by Enoch in the Book of Enoch, a non-canonical book. Jude quoted this because it is true, but this book is not in the canon of Scripture because not all of it is true and inspired by God. 2 Peter 2:1-3 speaks of false prophets in the past and false teachers in the present. Jude gives 3 Old Testament examples of those whom God judged and punished in the past as examples of the fact that He will judge and punish false teachers in the future.

A. His people whom He delivered from Egypt in the Exodus who wondered and died in the wilderness (v. 5).

B. The angels who fell with Lucifer (v. 6).

C. Sodom and Gomorrah (v. 7).

2. The spiritual condition of false teachers is that they are unsaved (v. 4). The word, “ungodly,” describes the spiritual condition and character of these false teachers. These kinds of false teachers who are deliberately leading people astray are wolves. They are not genuine Christians. Their lostness is demonstrated by the use of the word, “ungodly,” to describe them. This word is always used in the New Testament of people who do not have a relationship with Jesus (Romans 4:5, 5:6; 1 Timothy 1:9; Jude 15, 19 [“not having the Spirit”). Jude 15 says that ungodly people commit ungodly deeds so their actions manifest their ungodly conditions. This passage gives several characteristics of ungodly false teachers. This is important to examine so we are not led astray by them (contrast with 1 Timothy 3:1-7). They include (I'm not saying every false teacher has all of these

character flaws or that this is an exhaustive list, but it is what the Spirit led Jude to say about the false teachers attempting to infiltrate the church in his day):

A. They substitute their own spiritual delusions and sensual confusion for the truth of the Word of God (v. 8).

B. They practice sexual immorality (v. 8, 16, 18, 20).

C. They reject authority (v. 8). In this context, it refers to rejecting the Lordship of Christ.

D. They are arrogant (v. 8-9). These verses speak of them speaking evil of dignitaries, which refers to angels and gives an example in verse 9.

E. They are spiritually blind (v. 10). They speak as authorities on things that they do not know what they are talking about.

F. They corrupt themselves (v. 10). They are practicing spiritual and moral self-destruction.

G. They approach God wrongly through human works instead of through faith in the sacrifice of Jesus (Hebrews 11:4, 1 John 3:12).

H. They are greedy (v. 11). The text uses the Old Testament example of Balaam (Numbers 22-24), who led Israel into sexual sin for money.

I. They rebel against God-ordained human authority (v. 11). Korah, who rebelled against God's leaders, Moses and Aaron, is used as an example in this verse. This comes from Numbers 16.

J. They are dangerous to the church (v. 12). Love feasts took place as part of Communion. "Spots" is a possible translation, but most Bible scholars view rocks, as in hidden rocks or reefs that would be dangerous to ships, as the better translation.

K. They serve only themselves (v. 12). They are selfish shepherds who serve themselves and are in ministry for what they can get out of it instead of what they can give to other people.

L. They are spiritually empty and dead people who do evil things, lead people astray, and receive judgment for it (v. 12-13).

M. They complain against God (v. 16).

N. They speak arrogantly of themselves and tell people what they want to hear in order to gain a following (v. 16).

O. They are divisive (v. 19).

3. The root and expression of this condition is perverting the grace of God and denying the Lordship of Christ.

-Based on these verses and characteristics, here are 7 general categories for types of false teachers as shared in an article by Tim Challies:

1. The Heretic: liberals, cults, people I mentioned earlier

- 2. The Charlatan:** the prosperity gospel, sow a seed type stuff
- 3. The Prophet:** Joseph Smith and Mormonism; people adding to Scripture; common in Charismatic theology
- 4. The Abuser:** talk about the SBC and our policies; it is not just beliefs but practice
- 5. The Divider:** this could be any Christian causing unbiblical division in churches or the Body of Christ at large
- 6. The Tickler:** about what isn't said more than what is said, Joel Osteen, any pastor who ignores sin or tough subjects in Scripture
- 7. The Speculator:** trivialities, speculation, adding to Scripture (end times)

Conclusion: How Do We Stand For The Faith?

- 1. Handle Scripture well and correctly define the faith (2 Timothy 2:15).**
- 2. Walk in the truth (3 John 4).**
- 3. Practice church discipline against false teachers (Romans 16:17-18).**
- 4. Proclaim the truth to those outside the faith (1 Peter 3:15).**
- 5. Pass the faith along to others (2 Timothy 2:2).**
- 6. Do not divide over secondary doctrines (Romans 14:1).**
- 7. Preach the truth of the Word (2 Timothy 4:2).**
- 8. Sing the truth of the Word (Colossians 3:16).**
- 9. Stand for the truth by correcting other believers without being contentious (2 Timothy 2:23-26).**