

“The Faith Worth Standing For”

Jude 3-4

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

Why is this the faith worth standing for?

1. The faith is clearly defined. It is “*the* faith.” It is not “a faith” or “our faith.” We usually think of faith as a verb with the meaning of us acting with trust. However, this is one of over 25 instances where it is used in the New Testament as a noun preceded by the definite article, “the.” This usage does not refer to our personal exercise of faith, but “the faith” (as used here as a noun) is the basic core of Christian doctrine that is clearly revealed in the New Testament. It is not what we choose to believe but what God tells us to believe through the Apostles (Acts 2:42).

The basics of the faith are: God is the Creator and sovereign ruler of the world and we are made in His image as male and female; God is Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, three persons who are the one God, co-equal and co-eternal; Jesus Christ is fully God and fully man, born of a virgin, lived a perfect and sinless life, died on the cross as the substitutionary sacrifice for our sins, was bodily raised from the dead, ascended to heaven, and is someday literally coming back to earth; the Bible is the Word of God, inspired, inerrant, and infallible; and salvation is by grace through faith alone with Jesus being the only way to God.

Really, it is the things that are connected to the gospel. Paul told the church at Philippi to “stand fast in one spirit, with one mind striving together for the faith of the gospel” (Philippians 1:27). 1 Corinthians 15:3 teaches us that the gospel is of first priority. That is what we are to unite around. Jude 4 even strongly implies that false religions pervert the person and work of Jesus Christ and deny the grace of God.

2. The faith is totally exclusive. That is reflected in the fact that it is “the faith.” In fact, it is the one and only faith that is real and true.

3. The faith is permanently settled. It is “once for all” delivered to the saints. This refutes modernism and relativism. It is not up for discussion or debate. It does not change with the times but is the unchanging truth of God.

4. The faith is divinely revealed. It is “delivered to the saints.” By whom? By God the Holy Spirit. Man did not create or invent it, but it was given to him by God. Therefore,

we are stewards who are commanded to guard this treasure that was given to us by God. It is not to be tampered with.

5. The faith is subtly attacked. This is what verse 4 teaches us, and this is why we must contend for it. There is no need to defend something that is not being attacked.

Tim Challies has written, “Satan’s greatest ambassadors are not pimps, politicians, or power-brokers, but pastors. His priests do not peddle a different religion, but a deadly perversion of the true one. His troops do not make a full-out frontal assault, but work as agents, sneaking into the opposing army. Satan’s tactics are studied, clever, predictable, effective. Therefore, we must always remain vigilant.”

Faithful shepherds are called to protect the sheep from all wolves, whether inside or outside the church, by teaching, training, equipping, warning and guarding the sheep. John Stott writes, “In the ancient Near East wolves were the chief enemy of sheep. Hunting now singly now in packs, they were a constant threat. Sheep were defenseless against them. Shepherds could not afford to relax their vigilance. Nor can Christian pastors. Jesus himself warned of false prophets; ‘wolves in sheep’s clothing’ he called them. So the shepherds of Christ’s flock have a doubly duty: to feed the sheep (by teaching the truth) and to protect them from wolves (by warning of error). As Paul put it to Titus, elders must hold firm the sure word according to apostolic teaching, so that they would be able both ‘to give instruction in sound doctrine and also to confute those who contradict it.’ This emphasis is unpopular today. We are frequently told always to be positive in our teaching, and never negative. But those who say this have either not read the New testament or, having read it, they disagree with it. For the Lord Jesus and his apostles refuted error themselves and urged us to do the same. One wonders if it is the neglect of this obligation which is a major cause of today’s theological confusion. If, when false teaching arises, Christian leaders sit idly by and do nothing, or turn tail and flee, they will earn the terrible epithet ‘hirelings’ who care nothing for Christ’s flock. Then too it will be said of believers, as it was of Israel, that ‘they were scattered, because there was no shepherd, and . . . they became food for all the wild animals’.”

7 Types of False Teachers (Challies):

1. The Heretic
2. The Charlatan
3. The Prophet
4. The Abuser
5. The Divider
6. The Tickler
7. The Speculator

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 Word (2 Timothy 4:2).**
- 8. Sing the truth (Colossians 3:16).**
- 9. Stand for the truth by correcting other believers without being contentious (2 Timothy 2:23-26).**