

Jude 22-23

But you, beloved, must remember the words that were spoken beforehand by the apostles of our Lord Jesus Christ, that they were saying to you, “In the last time there will be mockers, following after their own ungodly lusts.” These are the ones who cause divisions, worldly-minded, not having the Spirit. But you, beloved, building yourselves up on your most holy faith, praying in the Holy Spirit, keep yourselves in the love of God, waiting for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ to eternal life. And on some, who are doubting, have mercy; and for others, save, snatching them out of the fire; and on others have mercy with fear, hating even the tunic polluted by the flesh.

Jude 3 – We looked at the purpose of the letter and determined that every believer in the church is supposed to Contend earnestly for the faith in their local church community and then in the broader church community.

Jude 4 – We saw that the problem and danger for the church is that certain persons have crept in unnoticed who deny our only Master and Lord, Jesus Christ.

Jude 5-16 – We looked at the primary and secondary sources that Jude uses to warn all those in the church community that those who do not come to faith in Jesus Christ and remain in the faith in Jesus Christ will receive judgement and condemnation. Jude also points out the root sins and the fruit sins of these false Christians followed by their judgement and condemnation from our Lord and Master Jesus Christ.

Also in verses 5-16 Jude gave us detailed descriptions of these false Christians by using examples from the Old Testament Scriptures, Jewish traditions, and similitudes of nature and promise to help the church get a clear picture of who these impostors may be and how to identify them amongst God’s elect.

Jude has spent most of his letter giving details about these impostors and the judgement that will come upon them and at the same time Jude has already given the command to the church to contend earnestly for the faith.

If a Christian does not obey the application section of Jude 17-23, they may not be contending for the faith at all according to Jude.

Jude 17-23 is the application section of Jude's letter, or in other words the instruction manual on how to contend for the faith against the impostors. This is the section in which Jude, who loves combinations of three, gives his readers three commands on how they must contend for the faith against the impostors who have crept in unnoticed.

Each of these commands has a **combination of three** within them.

1st – Jude 17-19 Jude commands the church to remember the words that were spoken beforehand by the apostles of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Jude 17-19 But you, beloved, must remember the words that were spoken beforehand by the apostles of our Lord Jesus Christ, that they were saying to you, "In the last time there will be mockers, following after their own ungodly lusts." These are the ones who **cause divisions, worldly-minded, not having the Spirit.**

2nd -- Jude 20-21 Jude commands the church to keep yourselves in the love of God.

Jude 20-21 But you, beloved, **building yourselves up on your most holy faith, praying in the Holy Spirit, keep yourselves in the love of God, waiting for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ to eternal life.**

3rd – Jude 22-23 Jude commands the church to have mercy on all the unbelievers who have been led astray by the impostors.

Jude 22-23 And on some, who are doubting, **have mercy**; and for others, **save**, snatching them out of the fire; and on others **have mercy** with fear, hating even the tunic polluted by the flesh.

Jude, being inspired by the Holy Spirit writes these three imperatives that the church must follow obediently to **contend earnestly for the faith.**

Today we will be looking at Jude 22-23.

Jude 22-23 And on some, who are doubting, have mercy; and for others, save, snatching them out of the fire; and on others have mercy with fear, hating even the tunic polluted by the flesh.

The church must always be aware of their audience, who are the people that are watching the way the church lives and seeing what the church believes. Also, the church must be aware of where the culture is at, or in other words what the majority of the people in that particular culture believe and how they live.

Jude is stressing to the church the importance of discernment and knowing where these unbelievers are at when it comes to their worldview, their knowledge of God, what their worship looks like according to their ungodliness and unrighteousness.

This is an important task for the church, in order to reach individuals where they are at, by applying God's truth in a way that confronts their unbelief, their ungodliness, and their unrighteousness.

Jude points out three different people groups within the church community that have been affected by the teaching of the lifestyle's of the impostors (Jude 4).

1st -- Jude 22 And on some, who are doubting, have mercy; The unbelievers who are doubters and don't know what to believe about the Gospel.

2nd -- Jude 23a and for others, save, snatching them out of the fire; The unbelievers that have been influenced and are contaminated by the sins being promoted by the impostors lifestyles (Jude 4) and the contaminators or influencers (Jude 23a).

3rd -- Jude 23b and on others have mercy with fear, hating even the tunic polluted by the flesh. The unbelievers that believe they can live like the impostors, that have been contaminated, and are now the contaminators or influencers leading others headlong into sin.

Notice how I said that these people have been affected by the teaching of the lifestyle of the impostors. Jude did not write about the false doctrines that the impostors were teaching, but Jude focuses on the teaching of the impostors that is seen by the way the impostors live their lives in the church community. This emphasizes that even if you say that you believe something, your true confession is seen in the way you live.

When we think about false prophets, we generally think about what they confess is what they teach, but Jude is pointing out that it is way the impostors live is what they teach.

Our Lord and Master Jesus Christ taught the same thing that Jude is writing about.

Matthew 7:15-23 “Beware of the false prophets, who come to you in sheep’s clothing, but inwardly are ravenous wolves. You will know them by their fruits. Are grapes gathered from thorn bushes or figs from thistles? Even so, every good tree bears good fruit, but the bad tree bears bad fruit. A good tree cannot bear bad fruit, nor can a bad tree bear good fruit. Every tree that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire. So then, you will know them by their fruits. “Not everyone who says to Me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ will enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of My Father who is in heaven *will enter*. Many will say to Me on that day, ‘Lord, Lord, in Your name did we not prophesy, and in Your name cast out demons, and in Your name do many miracles?’ And then I will declare to them, ‘I never knew you; DEPART FROM ME, YOU WHO PRACTICE LAWLESSNESS.’

The apostle John taught that your confession of Jesus Christ is void if it does not change the way you live.

1 John 1:5-6 And this is the message we have heard from Him and declare to you, that God is Light, and in Him there is no darkness at all. If we say that we have fellowship with Him and *yet* walk in the darkness, we lie and do not do the truth;

1 John 3:10 By this the children of God and the children of the devil are manifested: everyone who does not do righteousness is not of God, as well as the one who does not love his brother.

1 John 3:18 Little children, let us not love with word or with tongue, but in deed and truth.

1 John 4:20 If someone says, “I love God,” and hates his brother, he is a liar; for the one who does not love his brother whom he has seen, cannot love God whom he has not seen.

What is the church supposed to do with these people in order to contend earnestly for the faith?

Jude 22-23 And on some, who are doubting, **have mercy**; and for others, **save**, snatching them out of the fire; and on others **have mercy** with fear, hating even the tunic polluted by the flesh.

Jude says to have mercy. Some translations have replaced the word mercy with the word compassion. The problem with that is compassion is different than mercy and a person can be compassionate without having mercy, on the other hand having mercy always comes with compassion. Both compassion and mercy are aspects of God's goodness.

What is compassion? (Websters 1828) Compassion – A suffering with another: painful sympathy: a sensation of sorrow excited by distress or misfortunes of another. Compassion is compounded of love and sorrow.

Luke 19:41-44 And as He approached *Jerusalem* and saw the city, **He cried over it**, saying, “If you knew in this day, even you, the things which make for peace! But now they have been hidden from your eyes. For the days will come upon you when your enemies will throw up a barricade against you, and surround you and hem you in on every side, and they will level you to the ground and your children within you, and they will not leave in you one stone upon another, because you did not recognize the time of your visitation.”

What is mercy? (Websters 1828) Mercy – That benevolence, mildness or tenderness of heart which disposes a person to overlook injuries, or to treat an offender better than he deserves; the disposition that tempers justice, and induces an injured person to forgive trespasses and injuries, and to forbear punishment, or inflict less than the law or justice will warrant. In this sense, there is perhaps no word in our language precisely synonymous with mercy. That which comes nearest to it is grace. It implies benevolence, tenderness, mildness, pity or compassion, and clemency, but exercised only towards offenders. Mercy is a distinguishing attribute of the Supreme Being.

Luke 23:33-34 And when they came to the place called The Skull, there they crucified Him and the criminals, one on the right and the other on the left. But

Jesus was saying, "Father, forgive them; for they do not know what they are doing."

Mercy withholds the punishment that a person deserves, mercy is an attribute of God that overflows from the Goodness of God, God's mercy emphasizes God's goodness towards those who are in misery and distress.

Why should the church have mercy on these unbelievers that Jude is referring to?

I will present 4 reasons why the church must have mercy on these unbelievers.

1st – The only true God, the God revealed in the Bible is the God who is merciful and delights to show mercy.

Exodus 34:6-7 The LORD passed before him and proclaimed, "The LORD, the LORD, a God merciful and gracious, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love and faithfulness, keeping steadfast love for thousands, forgiving iniquity and transgression and sin, but who will by no means clear the guilty, visiting the iniquity of the fathers on the children and the children's children, to the third and the fourth generation."

Nehemiah 9:17 But you are a God ready to forgive, gracious and merciful, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love,

Psalms 145:8-9 The LORD is gracious and merciful, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love. The LORD is good to all, and his mercy is over all that he has made.

Ezekiel 18:23 Do I have any pleasure in the death of the wicked," declares Lord Yahweh, "is it not that he should turn from his ways and live?"

Ezekiel 18:32 For I have no pleasure in the death of anyone who dies," declares Lord Yahweh. "Therefore, turn back and live."

Ezekiel 33:11 Say to them, 'As I live!' declares Lord Yahweh, 'I take no pleasure in the death of the wicked, but rather that the wicked turn from his way and live. Turn back, turn back from your evil ways! Why then will you die, O house of Israel?'

Jonah 3:1-4:2

2nd – The church has received mercy from God.

1 Peter 2:9-10 But you are A CHOSEN FAMILY, A royal PRIESTHOOD, A HOLY NATION, A PEOPLE FOR *God's* OWN POSSESSION, so that you may proclaim the excellencies of Him who has called you out of darkness into His marvelous light; for you once were NOT A PEOPLE, but now you are THE PEOPLE OF GOD; you had NOT RECEIVED MERCY, but now you have RECEIVED MERCY.

Matthew 9:9-13 And as Jesus went on from there, He saw a man called Matthew, sitting in the tax office; and He said to him, "Follow Me!" And he stood up and followed Him. Then it happened that as Jesus was reclining *at the table* in the house, behold, many tax collectors and sinners came and were dining with Jesus and His disciples. And when the Pharisees saw *this*, they said to His disciples, "Why is your Teacher eating with the tax collectors and sinners?" But when Jesus heard *this*, He said, "*It is* not those who are healthy who need a physician, but those who are sick. But go and learn what this means: 'I DESIRE MERCY, AND NOT SACRIFICE,' for I did not come to call the righteous, but sinners."

1 Timothy 1:12-16 I am grateful to Christ Jesus our Lord, who has strengthened me, because He regarded me faithful, putting me into service, even though I was formerly a blasphemer and a persecutor and a violent aggressor. Yet I was shown mercy because I acted ignorantly in unbelief; and the grace of our Lord was more than abundant, with the faith and love which *are* in Christ Jesus. It is a trustworthy saying and deserving full acceptance: that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners, among whom I am foremost. Yet for this reason I was shown mercy, so that in me as the foremost, Christ Jesus might demonstrate all His patience as an example for those who are going to believe upon Him for eternal life.

Have you received mercy from God?

3rd – The church has been commanded by God to be merciful and God will reward His church for being merciful.

Matthew 5:7 Blessed are the merciful, for they shall receive mercy.

Luke 6:27-36 "But I say to you who hear, love your enemies, do good to those who hate you,28 bless those who curse you, pray for those who disparage you. Whoever hits you on the cheek, offer him the other also; and whoever takes away your garment, do not withhold your tunic from him either. Give to everyone who asks of you, and whoever takes away what is yours, do not

demand it back. And treat others the same way you want them to treat you. And if you love those who love you, what credit is *that* to you? For even sinners love those who love them. And if you do good to those who do good to you, what credit is *that* to you? For even sinners do the same. And if you lend to those from whom you expect to receive, what credit is *that* to you? Even sinners lend to sinners in order to receive back the same *amount*. But love your enemies, and do good, and lend, expecting nothing in return; and your reward will be great, and you will be sons of the Most High; for He Himself is kind to the ungrateful and evil. Be merciful, just as your Father is merciful.

4th – God’s warning to those who do not show mercy to others.

Matthew 18:21-35 Then Peter came and said to Him, “Lord, how often shall my brother sin against me and I forgive him? Up to seven times?” Jesus said to him, “I do not say to you, up to seven times, but up to seventy times seven. “For this reason the kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who wished to settle accounts with his slaves. When he had begun to settle *them*, one who owed him ten thousand talents was brought to him. But since he did not have *the means* to repay, his lord commanded him to be sold, along with his wife and children and all that he had, and repayment to be made. Therefore, the slave fell *to the ground* and was prostrating himself before him, saying, ‘Have patience with me and I will repay you everything.’ And feeling compassion, the lord of that slave released him and forgave him the debt. But that slave went out and found one of his fellow slaves who owed him one hundred denarii; and he seized him and *began to choke him*, saying, ‘Pay back what you owe.’ So, his fellow slave fell *to the ground* and was pleading with him, saying, ‘Have patience with me and I will repay you.’ But he was unwilling and went and threw him in prison until he should pay back what was owed. So, when his fellow slaves saw what had happened, they were deeply grieved and came and reported to their lord all that had happened. Then summoning him, his lord said to him, ‘You wicked slave, I forgave you all that debt because you pleaded with me. Should you not also have had mercy on your fellow slave, in the same way that I had mercy on you?’ And his lord, moved with anger, handed him over to the torturers until he should repay all that was owed him. My heavenly Father will also do the same to you, if each of you does not forgive his brother from your hearts.”

Jude 22 And on some, who are doubting, have mercy;

These are the unbelievers in the church community who are doubting and don't know what to believe about the Gospel because their ears are hearing the truth's of the Gospel but their eye's are seeing the way the impostors live.

What is doubting?

Wavering in mind, hesitating to believe, to be divided in one's mind.

James 1:6-8 But he must ask in faith, doubting nothing, for the one who doubts is like the surf of the sea, driven and tossed by the wind. For that man ought not to expect that he will receive anything from the Lord, *being* a double-minded man, unstable in all his ways.

Who are the doubters? Nicodemus was a doubter.

John 3:1-9 Now there was a man of the Pharisees, named Nicodemus, a ruler of the Jews; this man came to Jesus by night and said to Him, "Rabbi, we know that You have come from God *as* a teacher; for no one can do these signs that You do unless God is with him." Jesus answered and said to him, "Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born again he cannot see the kingdom of God." Nicodemus said to Him, "How can a man be born when he is old? Can he enter a second time into his mother's womb and be born?" Jesus answered, "Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit he cannot enter into the kingdom of God. That which has been born of the flesh is flesh, and that which has been born of the Spirit is spirit. Do not marvel that I said to you, 'You must be born again.' The wind blows where it wishes and you hear its sound, but do not know where it comes from and where it is going; so is everyone who has been born of the Spirit." Nicodemus answered and said to Him, "How can these things be?"

These people were doubters.

John 2:23-25 Now when He was in Jerusalem at the Passover, during the feast, many believed in His name, when they saw His signs which He was doing. But Jesus, on His part, was not entrusting Himself to them, for He knew all men, and because He had no need that anyone bear witness concerning man, for He Himself knew what was in man.

The doubters in our day are people who have a biblical worldview but have never been born again, they are religious, but without Christ, they may have grown up in the church that their parents attended, but they themselves have never truly repented and believed the Gospel, they are morally good according to worldly standards, they may even think they are Christians because at one time they made a profession about Jesus being their savior.

Jude 22 And on some, who are doubting, have mercy;

What does Jude mean by have mercy on the doubting?

Instead of condemning the doubters for their unbelief, we must speak God's truth to them with love concerning the Gospel and how they are commanded to look to Jesus Christ and to be saved through repentance and faith.

There are 2 ditches Christians can fall into that may be perceived as showing mercy, but they are not mercy.

1st – When silence concerning the Gospel or affirmation concerning the doubters unbelief are the message, that is not mercy. This means that you never point the doubter to just look to Jesus Christ alone and you tell them that their lack of assurance because of unbelief is just their walk with Jesus.

2nd – When a Christian becomes the doctrine police instead of sharing the Gospel, they are not showing mercy. There is the kind of Christian who thinks it's their job to correct everything about the doubter by insisting that the doubter believes all the right doctrines. That Christian likes to share their favorite doctrines instead of sharing the Gospel pointing the doubter to the Person and Work of Jesus Christ and letting God the Holy Spirit do the work in the doubter.

This is how Jesus showed mercy to Nicodemus when he was a doubter.

John 3:10-21 Jesus answered and said to him, "Are you the teacher of Israel and do not understand these things? Truly, truly, I say to you, we speak of what we know and bear witness of what we have seen, and you do not accept our witness. If I told you earthly things and you do not believe, how will you believe if I tell you heavenly things? And no one has ascended into heaven, but He who descended from heaven, the Son of Man. And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, even so must the Son of Man be lifted up; so that whoever believes will in Him have

eternal life. “For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish, but have eternal life. For God did not send the Son into the world to judge the world, but that the world might be saved through Him. He who believes in Him is not judged; he who does not believe has been judged already, because he has not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God. And this is the judgment, that the Light has come into the world, and men loved the darkness rather than the Light, for their deeds were evil. For everyone who does evil hates the Light, and does not come to the Light lest his deeds be exposed. But he who practices the truth comes to the Light, so that his deeds may be manifested as having been done by God.”

How can we have mercy on the doubter?

1 Peter 2:9b proclaim the excellencies of Him who has called you out of darkness into His marvelous light;

We are to proclaim the Person and Work of Jesus Christ. Magnify the Lord Jesus Christ as you share His glorious Gospel. The doubter needs to look to Jesus Christ to be saved, therefore our focus should be on Jesus Christ and Him alone.

1 Peter 3:15-16a but sanctify Christ as Lord in your hearts, always *being* ready to make a defense to everyone who asks you to give an account for the hope that is in you, yet with gentleness and fear, having a good conscience

We should be not be rude and harsh with the doubter.

James 3:17-18 But the wisdom from above is first pure, then peaceable, considerate, submissive, full of mercy and good fruits, without doubting, without hypocrisy. And the fruit of righteousness is sown in peace by those who make peace.

We must be dependent on God and His wisdom and not rely on man-made pragmatic arguments against the doubter.

Jude 23 and for others, save, snatching them out of the fire;

These are the unbelievers in the church community that have been influenced and are contaminated by the sins being promoted by the impostors lifestyles (Jude 4) and the contaminators or influencers (Jude 23a).

Who are these others?

Ephesians 4:19 And they, having become callous, have given themselves over to sensuality for the practice of every kind of impurity with greediness.

These are the unbelievers that have been given the green light to sin and are under the wrath of God to the extent that they've been ensnared by the devil and are standing so close to the fire that they are being scorched by it. They are on the verge of destruction.

Jude 23 and for others, **save**, snatching them out of the fire;

Save here means to save from spiritual disease and death in a way that leads to redemption and restoration or in other words salvation.

Do we have the power to save people?

No, only God has the power to save people, but God has entrusted to us the message of the Gospel that has the power to save people.

One man (John Calvin) gives a clear explanation: "The word to save, is transferred to men, not that they are the authors, but they are the ministers of salvation."

James 5:19-20 My brothers, if any among you strays from the truth and one turns him back, let him know that he who turns a sinner from the error of his way will save his soul from death and will COVER A MULTITUDE OF SINS.

Jude 23 and for others, save, **snatching them out of the fire**;

Jude uses the picture language of snatching them out of the fire.

Zechariah 3:1-7 Then he showed me Joshua the high priest standing before the angel of Yahweh, and Satan standing at his right hand to accuse him. And Yahweh said to Satan, "Yahweh rebuke you, Satan! Indeed, Yahweh who has chosen Jerusalem rebuke you! **Is this not a brand delivered from the fire?**" Now Joshua was clothed with filthy garments and standing before the angel. And he answered and spoke to those who were standing before him, saying, "Remove the filthy garments from him." Again he said to him, "See, I have made your iniquity pass away from you and will clothe you with festal robes." Then I said, "Let them put a clean turban on his head." So they put a clean turban on his head and clothed him with

garments, while the angel of Yahweh was standing by. And the angel of Yahweh testified to Joshua, saying, “Thus says Yahweh of hosts, ‘If you will walk in My ways and if you will keep the responsibility *given by Me*, then you will also render justice in My house and also keep My courts, and I will grant you access to walk among these who are standing *here*.”

Jude says we must save them and be urgent about saving them by snatching them out of the fire.

What do these unbelievers need to hear?

They need to hear the urgent warning of the danger they are in, followed by the truth of the Gospel.

Listen to how John the Baptist proclaims Jesus Christ along with the warning to unbelievers.

John 3:31-36 “He who comes from above is above all, he who is of the earth is from the earth and speaks of the earth. He who comes from heaven is above all. What He has seen and heard, of that He bears witness; and no one receives His witness. He who has received His witness has set his seal to *this*, that God is true. For He whom God has sent speaks the words of God; for He gives the Spirit without measure. The Father loves the Son and has given all things into His hand. He who believes in the Son has eternal life; but he who does not obey the Son will not see life, but the wrath of God abides on him.”

Listen to the apostle Paul

2 Timothy 2:23-26 But refuse foolish and ignorant speculations, knowing that they produce quarrels. And the Lord’s slave must not be quarrelsome, but be kind to all, able to teach, patient when wronged, with gentleness correcting those who are in opposition, if perhaps God may give them repentance leading to the full knowledge of the truth, and they may come to their senses *and escape* from the snare of the devil, having been held captive by him to do his will.

Stay on the message of the Gospel with kindness, patience, gentleness, and urgency.

Jude 23 and on others have mercy with fear, hating even the tunic polluted by the flesh.

The unbelievers that believe they can live like the impostors, that have been contaminated, and are now the contaminators or influencers leading others headlong into sin.

Jude uses a metaphor here just as we read about Joshua having filthy garments, but Jude goes a step further to point out the utter filthiness of these garments.

The tunic here refers to the under garments and when you put this together with polluted by the flesh in the Greek rendering, it means the filthy under garments stained by human excretions.

We get a picture of how the garments that are unclean can make every person that comes into contact with these garments unclean as well.

Leviticus 15:16-24 'Now if a man has a seminal emission, he shall bathe all his body in water and be unclean until evening. As for any garment or any leather on which there is seminal emission, it shall be washed with water and be unclean until evening. If *there is* a woman with whom a man lies *so that* there is a seminal emission, they shall both bathe in water and be unclean until evening. 'If a woman has a discharge, *and* her discharge in her body is blood, she shall continue in her menstrual impurity for seven days; and whoever touches her shall be unclean until evening. Everything also on which she lies during her menstrual impurity shall be unclean, and everything on which she sits shall be unclean. And anyone who touches her bed shall wash his clothes and bathe in water and be unclean until evening. And whoever touches any thing on which she sits shall wash his clothes and bathe in water and be unclean until evening. Whether it be on the bed or on the thing on which she is sitting, when he touches it, he shall be unclean until evening. If a man actually lies with her so that her menstrual impurity is on him, he shall be unclean seven days, and every bed on which he lies shall be unclean.

This is why we can call these unbelievers contaminators or influencers, because they spread their uncleanliness to every one they come into contact with.

Jude 23 and on others have mercy with fear, hating even the tunic polluted by the flesh.

Jude wants his hearers to have an intense aversion or hatred of the sins/filthy garments of these contaminators.

Jude 23 and on others have mercy **with fear**, hating even the tunic polluted by the flesh.

Jude says to have mercy **with fear**. Jude means that while you are having mercy, you must be fearful of being contaminated.

Galatians 6:1 Brothers, even if anyone is caught in any transgression, you who are spiritual, restore such a one in a spirit of gentleness, *each of you* looking to yourself, so that you too will not be tempted.

1 Timothy 4:16 Pay close attention to yourself and to your teaching; persevere in these things, for as you do this you will save both yourself and those who hear you.

How do we have mercy on the contaminators?

Share the Gospel and what the Gospel accomplishes in those who repent and believe.

1 Corinthians 6:9-11 Or do you not know that the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived; neither *the* sexually immoral, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor effeminate, nor homosexuals, nor thieves, nor *the* greedy, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor swindlers, will inherit the kingdom of God. And such were some of you; but you were washed, but you were sanctified, but you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and in the Spirit of our God.

Jude reminds us that we are ambassadors of Christ and we have the ministry of reconciliation just as the apostle Paul wrote.

2 Corinthians 5:6-21 Therefore, being always of good courage, and knowing that while we are at home in the body we are absent from the Lord— for we walk by faith, not by sight— we are of good courage and prefer rather to be absent from the body and to be at home with the Lord. Therefore we also have as our ambition, whether at home or absent, to be pleasing to Him. For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, so that each one may be recompensed for his deeds in the body, according to what he has done, whether good or bad. So then, knowing

the fear of the Lord, we persuade men, but we have been made manifest to God; and I hope that we have been made manifest also in your consciences. We are not again commending ourselves to you but *are* giving you an opportunity to boast of us, so that you will have *an answer* for those who boast in appearance and not in heart. For if we are out of our mind, it is for God, or if we are of right mind, it is for you. For the love of Christ controls us, having concluded this, that one died for all, therefore all died. And He died for all, so that they who live would no longer live for themselves, but for Him who died and rose again on their behalf. Therefore from now on we recognize no one according to the flesh; even though we have known Christ according to the flesh, yet now we know *Him in this way* no longer. Therefore if anyone is in Christ, *he is* a new creation; the old things passed away; behold, new things have come. Now all *these* things are from God, who reconciled us to Himself through Christ and gave us the ministry of reconciliation, namely, that God was in Christ reconciling the world to Himself, not counting their transgressions against them, and He has committed to us the word of reconciliation. So then, we are ambassadors for Christ, as God is pleading through us. We beg you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God. He made Him who knew no sin *to be* sin on our behalf, so that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.

Amen!

