

# Contend Earnestly For the Faith Which Was Once For All Handed Down to the Saints

## An Expository Study of the **Epistle of Jude**

### Chapter 15- How to Combat Heresy **Jude 17-21**

### 176 How to Combat Heresy Part 12

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WOSM Wednesday 07/09/08

Welcome again my beloved in Jesus Christ. We're continuing our verse by verse "journey" through the **Epistle of Jude** and today we are continuing to go over what Jude taught about "How to Combat Heresy". So, let's open our Bibles and read **Jude 17-21** again together:

**17 But you, beloved, ought to remember the words that were spoken beforehand by the apostles of our Lord Jesus Christ,**

**18 that they were saying to you, "In the last time there will be mockers, following after their own ungodly lusts."**

**19 These are the ones who cause divisions, worldly-minded, devoid of the Spirit.**

**20 But you, beloved, building yourselves up on your most holy faith, praying in the Holy Spirit,**

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

Now we are continuing to go over the first of the four ways that Jude gave us to combat heresy when it comes to our Church. This first way is based upon the inspired words that Jude wrote to us in verse 20:

#### **1. Build Up Yourself on Your Most Holy Faith**

And as we have already seen- there are 10 separate Biblical keys for every believer to become spiritually strong; edified; mature; and equipped. So, let's go over the list:

##### 1. Prayer

2. Bible Study
3. Godly Fellowship
4. Obedience
5. Being Filled With the Spirit
6. Confession
7. Love
8. Trust
9. Witnessing
10. Discernment

... and we have already gone over the first five items- Prayer, Bible Study, Fellowship, Obedience and Being Filled With the Spirit and today I want to look at the sixth way that will help us build ourselves up on our most holy Faith- and that is Confession.

Now one of the most horrifying things that exist on earth is a believer who is engaged in secret sin. A person who lives a double life by pretending to serve God outwardly while in reality living for the devil is in the worst of all possible situations.

I believe that in spite of this being one of the most painful and tragic of all stations of this life, I truly believe that engaging in secret sin is much more prevalent than we might think.

Now what do I mean by the term, “secret sin”? Secret sin is really not “secret” at all because a whole bunch of people know all about it.

First of all- God knows about your secret sin. The Bible clearly reveals to us that God is Omniscient. And that term was invented to accurately describe the quality of God which allows Him to see and to know and to understand all things fully. There isn't anything that God does not know, and He knows everything equally well. God doesn't specialize in one thing at the expense of another- He knows everything about everything.

And in His Omniscience, God knows the very thoughts and intents of every heart of every individual who lives on the earth and who ever has lived and who ever will live all at the same time. God is, right at this moment, answering the unspoken requests of countless millions of believers all around the world while at the same time never violating His Own Sovereign Will in any of His answers.

At the same time, God is also assuring that what He started is being completed in exactly the right way according to His Own

predetermined Pleasure. So, for any of us to think that we can transgress against this God without Him knowing all about it is the textbook definition of stupidity.

So first of all- God knows when we sinned, and He knows why we sinned, and He knows the outcome of our sin. So, no sin is “secret” in that sense because God knows all about it.

But in addition to God knowing all about our sin- *we* also know all about our sin. We know when we sinned; and we know most all of the details of our sin. We know if our sin was a sin of omission or a sin of commission. We know if our sin was an honest mistake done at the spur of the moment or whether it was premeditated and planned hours or days or even weeks in advance.

So, God knows about our so-called “secret sin”, and we know. But the list goes on. If we sinned with the help of other people- then they know about our secret sin too. If we bought something that wasn’t godly or if we did something with someone else or if we took something with the help of someone else or if we asked someone to cover for us as we sinned- then that person also knows about our sin as well.

So, our sin is fairly well known isn’t it? Well, why then do I refer to it as a “Secret sin”? Sin is only “secret” in it’s deception of our own heart. You see sin is unlike anything else on earth. Sin causes internal as well as external problems. Sin causes separation from God. Sin causes the tender heart of a young girl to become harder than stone; sin wipes the smile off a young man’s face. Sin fills up our rehab facilities and our jails and our morgues. Sin is glamorized by the lost unregenerate world- but in reality, sin isn’t funny at all. It isn’t cute; it isn’t pretty, and it isn’t easy- it is real, real hard. Sin will cost you more than you were willing to pay. Sin will keep you longer than you wanted to stay. Sin will take from you what you didn’t want to give.

Sin is as black as night; it is as lonely as it gets; it is as vicious and unmerciful and cruel as the devil himself. Sin causes all war; all disease; all murders; all rapes; all theft; all violence and all death.

And sin angers God. Because God is perfectly righteous and holy- He cannot bear sin. He does not tolerate it. Sin cannot stand in His Presence. Sin insults God. Sin offends God. Sin is contrary to the very Nature and Character of God.

The Bible says in **James 2:10**:

**For whoever keeps the whole law and yet stumbles in one *point*, he has become guilty of all.**

This verse says that while it may be true that you have never one time in your life committed adultery and while it may be true that you may have never one time stolen anything and you may have never one time dishonored your parents and you may have never one time told a lie or worshipped other gods or bowed to idols- but even if all of that were true- if you ever had one covetous thought- even one time in your life- for just three seconds- then you are guilty before God of breaking all of God's Commandments and you stand before God- not as a "good man"- but you will stand before God guilty as a transgressor of the entire Law of God.

You see, dear friends, God set the bar so high to go to Heaven that no human on earth can ever qualify in his own power to achieve it. This is what the Bible means when it says in **Romans 3:10**:

**There is no one who is righteous, no, not one:**

And God gave the Law- not to *save* us- because the Law cannot save anyone. No, God gave the Law to serve as a mirror which would reflect to us our own sinfulness each and every time we violate it. But *why* does God want us all to know about our sinfulness, Brother Blair?

Please hear what I say, my brothers and sisters. It is God's perfect and holy Will to bring every human on earth to a place of utter despair and desperation and hopelessness about his own lost condition. Now why is this God's Will? So that those who see just how lost they really are; those who are given the gift to be able to understand just how sinful they really are; those who can comprehend by the miracle of the new birth just how deserving of hell they really are- will be driven to their knees and the staff of their pride and arrogance will be broken and they will acknowledge their helpless estate and they will beat their chests and beg Jesus Christ to save their wretched souls.

So, you see, the Bible teaches that the Law acts as a "schoolmaster" to bring us to the understanding that since we are so bad and since we cannot do anything to help ourselves- we need a

sinless, spotless Savior to wash us in His pure Blood and we need God by His Mercy- not because we deserved it- to impute to us the very same righteousness of Jesus Christ by faith and we need God to cast our sins away and throw them into the depth of the sea. And then we need God the Holy Spirit to live inside us, giving us the power and the ability to serve God in the newness of life.

We need God to do all of this for us- sovereignly- because we are totally unable to do any of this for ourselves.

And the key to this entire process is the confession from our lips that we know we are lost, and we acknowledge our own wickedness and that we desperately need Jesus to save us.

And that very same confession that brought us to Jesus in the first place- is the same confession that we need to make often- after we are saved.

Now I realize that preaching like this flies in the face of most of our famous and popular evangelists today- but what I am preaching is true and you need to consider what I say. I suppose that more people are preaching about what they call victory or victorious living today more than ever before- but the Truth of the matter is that without genuine confession of sin- preaching about victory is a waste of time and you will never see one day of victorious living until and unless you bring yourself to acknowledge your sin in open and free confession.

And I will tell you that with the loss of the concept of confession of sin- the modern Church walks in less victory and less obedience to Jesus than at any time in its 2,000 year history.

When God's people do not acknowledge and confess their sin- it is a reflection of how they view sin and how they view God and how they view themselves. If sin is as bad as the Bible says that it is- then how do we expect to deal with sin- by simply ignoring it? If we view God in the way that the Bible reveals Him to be- then is He not entitled to our confession and the recognition that we acknowledge the horror of our sin every single time we transgress?

But if we hold to an unbiblical view of ourselves; if we believe that Salvation and Church and the entire Plan of God is all about us; that it is all about us benefiting and that it is all about us becoming great and prosperous and successful- then to confess sin would hurt our pride and wound our self esteem and it would causes us to think less of ourselves than we do and it would causes us to realize that

Salvation and the Church and the entire Plan of God is all about God and not about us. Which is exactly the way that it is.

An unwillingness to confess sin shows that we don't realize that sin is not about bad things happening to us- but that sin offends God and that He deserves our confession and our grief and our repentance over our wicked acts.

Self centered people; self help people; self righteous people do not wish to engage in confession of sin because they are trying so hard to make themselves to be better and more acceptable and confession of sin hinders their view of how important they are. But broken; helpless; sold out; bought and paid for people correctly understand that they possess no good thing in themselves and that the only righteousness that they have to boast about is the Righteousness of Jesus Christ and that was given to them so they readily and easily confess their sin so that God may be honored and so that they will not live a lie.

Now I don't have time to go into this very much, but the entire Communion service is not about Christ's Victorious Resurrection, but is a constant reminder of His Death and also a reminder that we still sin and that we need to acknowledge and confess it. Confess it in all its horrible detail in your prayer closet between you and God alone. Freely acknowledge the wickedness of your sin and God will bathe you in His mercy and give you the power to overcome it.

So do not hide your sin. When we sin- we must run to Jesus and confess our sin to Him. Beg His forgiveness and study God's Holy Word so that we may tuck God's Word in our heart so that we may not sin against Him.

Well, I have to stop right here but please join me on the next broadcast as we continue our journey through the Epistle of Jude. May God help us all.

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The Grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with your spirit. Amen. Be watchful and quicken your pace. Soli Deo Gloria. For the Glory of God alone.