



## **Contending for the True Faith**

### **Key idea:**

All Christians are called to receive, contend for, and pass on the one true faith that was delivered once and for all to God's people.

### **Key text:**

Jude 1:1-4

Jude, a servant of Jesus Christ and a brother of James, To those who have been called, who are loved by God the Father and kept by Jesus Christ: <sup>2</sup> Mercy, peace and love be yours in abundance. <sup>3</sup> Dear friends, although I was very eager to write to you about the salvation we share, I felt I had to write and urge you to contend for the faith that was once for all entrusted to the saints. <sup>4</sup> For certain men whose condemnation was written about long ago have secretly slipped in among you. They are godless men, who change the grace of our God into a license for immorality and deny Jesus Christ our only Sovereign and Lord.

### **Key points:**

1. Jude was the physical half-brother of Jesus, but he considered the most important fact to be that he was the servant/slave of Jesus.
2. For a Christian, the most important and fundamental fact of life is being a servant and slave of Jesus Christ.
3. Christians are those who have been called, loved, and kept by God, and who are given mercy, peace, and love in abundance through Christ.
4. Despite the claims of heretics down through the ages, there are not many "faiths" but only one true faith, which God has given to His people to embrace, protect, defend, and pass on.
5. False teachers and false believers try to change the one, true faith by either changing essential doctrines or by changing essential moral teachings of the faith so that they align with current beliefs and moral practices.

6. Leaders and all believers are called by God to know, contend for, and pass on the true faith.

**Questions for discussion/application:**

1. What part of Sunday's text and teaching stood out most to me? Why?
2. Did I know that Jude was actually the physical half-brother of Jesus? Did it surprise me that he would not emphasize this? Can I imagine calling myself the servant/slave of my sibling?
3. How often do I reflect on the fact that God called and loved me before the foundation of the world? That I am kept by the power of Jesus Christ until His return? When I reflect on these truths, what effect does it have on me?
4. What does it mean that I am a servant of God? Do I often think of myself as God's servant? Do I think of myself as God's slave? How is that different in my mind than being His servant?
5. What things in church history make it difficult to believe that there is only one, true faith? What things in our current culture make it difficult to believe that there is only one, true faith?
6. How do I distinguish between core, essential Christian beliefs and morals, and secondary issues? How do I know these are truly core, essential beliefs and morals and not just personal or group preferences?
7. Can I think of modern examples of people trying to change core, essential Christian beliefs? Can I think of modern examples of people trying to change core, essential Christian moral teachings and practices? Are these challenges really new and modern, or did the 1st-century church really face the same challenges?
8. How well do I know the core, essential beliefs of the faith? Can I defend them biblically? How do I plan to learn and grow in this area?
9. Whom can I pray for, share what I have learned, and invite to church this week?

**Preview of next week: Visiting Missionary Kishor Pandagade from India**