

Spiritual Terrorists

Introduction

IMAGE 1 LEAVE IT UP...Sept 11th is when I think that we all started to realize the threat of terrorism. I think we all thought that war would be like Pearl Harbor. A foreign nation attacking our homeland....But this was a different and probably more effective strategy. This attack for the first time included betrayal. People who would move to America, blend into and establish themselves in our culture, attempt to blend in...to work with us...play with us... share events with us... be a great neighbor... never letting on that they were here to destroy us.

We shared our schools, our freedom, our neighborhoods, our ideals, and the whole time they were using us to figure out how to destroy us. It is the ultimate betrayal. That is what terrorists do. They try their very best to blend in and to not let their true motives be revealed. They are usually on a spiritual mission of revenge or to advance their own way of thinking and life.

If they are really good at what they do...they shock everyone when the turn to destruction. Terrorism causes fear because they can't really be identified...they look like us, work like us, play like us and share community with us. All while trying to figure out the best way to destroy us.

It is even worse I think when the betrayal...the terrorism occurs in the church. Spiritual terrorists have been attacking God's people since Genesis. Jesus warned us about them...He called them wolves in sheep's clothing. And their attack is on the truth .It is Satan's most effective scheme. They take advantage of our desire to love everyone and welcome and serve them.

Sadly, too many in the church can't believe the betrayal. They have embraced these terrorists as misguided or poorly informed because they truly can't believe this is purposeful, intentional, and a planned betrayal. So rather than call them out, they just kind of shake their heads and tolerate them. The American Church lies in rubble from a terrorist attack that is the result of us not guarding truth. We let these terrorists wreck havoc on God's truth.

We are in a series called What is Truth? We are working our way through some of the teachings of John MacArthur and trying to best understand how to address the apostasy that is so prevalent in the American Church today.

We have been focusing on the apostates, these spiritual terrorists, and will continue to do so today. However, soon we will turn our attention to those in the their audiences and how we can be help them come back to truth.

We have been looking a letter written by Jude. Jesus' half brother and the brother of James. We mentioned that Jude knew the audience that he was writing to and they knew him. He wrote an urgent

letter, calling people to respond to the terrorist threat in their church. His letter speaks to them and to all of us today.

Change of Plans...

Jude tells us that he had originally planned to write an encouraging letter about the salvation that all how believe enjoy. Something more urgent had come up that Jude addresses with serious and urgent words.

Jude 3 (ESV) 3 Beloved, although I was very eager to write to you about our common salvation, I found it necessary to write appealing to you to contend for the faith that was once for all delivered to the saints.

Spiritual terrorists are here. I wanted to celebrate with you but we must urgently attend to our battle stations. The battle is within our walls. Our enemy claims to be us.

Jude 4 (ESV) 4 For certain people have crept in unnoticed who long ago were designated for this condemnation, ungodly people, who pervert the grace of our God into sensuality and deny our only Master and Lord, Jesus Christ.

The matter is so urgent, that Jude dives right in to the point. The Holy Spirit sovereignly impressed upon Jude to immediately fight for the faith. The new church that Jesus built with His blood was failing to guard and teach the true gospel. Teachers were sent by Satan and they were attacking the church from within. The church was having a 9/11

What had started as a warm loving encouraging letter has become a cry to arms. His entire letter is a war cry that applies to all believers throughout all the ages...including us. We too are called to join in the War for Truth.

The church in Acts was in trouble and the very movement of Jesus was in threat of imploding from within. Spiritual terrorists had been sent by Satan to infiltrate the church, blend in and then destroy it.

The Early Church

Wait a minute. What happened to the early church? Remember they were sharing everything? Singing hymns together? Gathering in teaching, prayer, fellowship and breaking of bread. You know the pure church in Acts that everyone says they want to go back to? So many churches say today....we are going to be an Acts church.

By the fourth chapter of Acts the church already had major problems. Do you remember Ananias and his wife Sapphira...God turned their tithe into their funeral service. Most of the Book of Acts is the story of how the early church was attacked by Satan from within, over the issue of truth. Remember Jude writes this letter within 30 years of Jesus ascending to Heaven.

From the very beginning the enemies of truth infiltrated the church and tried to confuse the new followers by blending their lies with Christian doctrine. Satan's strategy to place ministers with bad doctrine inside the church was dangerously effective.

2 Corinthians 11:13–15 (ESV) 13 For such men are false apostles, deceitful workmen, disguising themselves as apostles of Christ. 14 And no wonder, for even Satan disguises

himself as an angel of light. 15 So it is no surprise if his servants, also, disguise themselves as servants of righteousness. Their end will correspond to their deeds.

Peter wrote before Jude and it is obvious that Jude had access to Peter's letters.

2 Peter 2:1–3 (ESV) 1 But false prophets also arose among the people, just as there will be false teachers among you, who will secretly bring in destructive heresies, even denying the Master who bought them, bringing upon themselves swift destruction. 2 And many will follow their sensuality, and because of them the way of truth will be blasphemed. 3 And in their greed they will exploit you with false words. Their condemnation from long ago is not idle, and their destruction is not asleep.

2 Peter 2:10–15 (ESV) 10 and especially those who indulge in the lust of defiling passion and despise authority. Bold and willful, they do not tremble as they blaspheme the glorious ones, ... 12 But these, like irrational animals, creatures of instinct, born to be caught and destroyed, blaspheming about matters of which they are ignorant, will also be destroyed in their destruction, They are blots and blemishes, reveling in their deceptions, while they feast with you. 14 They have eyes full of adultery, insatiable for sin. They entice unsteady souls. They have hearts trained in greed. Accursed children! 15 Forsaking the right way, they have gone astray. They have followed the way of Balaam, the son of Beor, who loved gain from wrongdoing,

So when Jude writes his letter, false teachers had already infiltrated the church. They were well established in the church community. They appeared to be fellow believers and their poison, their false teaching, was starting to spread among the believers.

These people in Jude's time and in our time....Those we have called out and exposed are spiritual terrorists. It seemed every apostle was writing and warning about them. Hebrews, 1 and 2 Corinthians, Galatians, Colossians, 1 and 2 Thessalonians, 2 and 3 John and the Book of Jude. The entire New Testament is a book about guarding the truth and fighting false teachers.

We should not be too surprised however because Jesus repetitively warned us about this during His earthly ministry.

The Parable of the Soils

Luke 8:11–15 (ESV) 11 Now the parable is this: The seed is the word of God. 12 The ones along the path are those who have heard; then the devil comes and takes away the word from their hearts, so that they may not believe and be saved. 13 And the ones on the rock are those who, when they hear the word, receive it with joy. But these have no root; they believe for a while, and in time of testing fall away. 14 And as for what fell among the thorns, they are those who hear, but as they go on their way they are choked by the cares and riches and pleasures of life, and their fruit does not mature. 15 As for that in the good soil, they are those who, hearing the word, hold it fast in an honest and good heart, and bear fruit with patience.

Notice that three out of four soils represent people who hear the true Word of God and turn away. Those with hard soil do so immediately. the devil comes and takes away the word from their hearts, so that they may not believe and be saved. The devil comes and takes away the word from their hearts, so that they may not believe and be saved.

This first group are spiritually unresponsive...no interest...no desire...Word of God has no lasting effect on them.

The next group...those in the weeds...may show early signs of true life, but before the Word can bear fruit in their lives, the desires/lies of the world choke out any interest that they may have had. They may appear to grow for a time, but they never really experience conversion. These people are a threat to the church because they are superficial in their faith and have never truly surrendered.

But the Greatest Threat....comes from the shallow soil hearers. They receive the Word with joy but they have no root. They believe for a while but in the time of temptation they fall away. They give every indication of genuine life change but they have no root. They can never bear true Spiritual Fruit because they are not really connected to the Spirit.

They don't have real faith. They hear the truth, they understand the truth, and they superficially agree with the truth but with no root whatever growth they exhibit will die.

Jude uses this imagery when he identifies apostates.

Jude 12–13 (ESV) 12 These are hidden reefs at your love feasts, as they feast with you without fear, shepherds feeding themselves; waterless clouds, swept along by winds; fruitless trees in late autumn, twice dead, uprooted; 13 wild waves of the sea, casting up the foam of their own shame; wandering stars, for whom the gloom of utter darkness has been reserved forever.

fruitless trees, twice dead, pulled up by the roots.

Apostasy

Let me be clear that apostates are not simply non-believers, seekers, or those of other faiths. Apostates know the truth of the Gospel message and they reject it. They are not confused or uneducated....they fully know all of it and have made the willful choice to reject it, but to use the church for their personal gain under the guidance of Satan.

The very core of apostasy is hearing the truth, knowing what the truth is, claiming to accept it but then finally rejecting it. It is critical to note that their final rejection of Jesus is made with full knowledge and understanding. A fatal apostasy from which there is no hope of recovery. Apostasy is so serious that God teaches us that many of the apostates are now beyond hope of salvation.

Hebrews 6:3–6 (ESV) 4 For it is impossible, in the case of those who have once been enlightened (known the truth of the Gospel) , who have tasted the heavenly gift (joined others in fellowship), and have shared in the Holy Spirit (been witnesses in the Spirit others possess) , 5 and have tasted (not ingested) the goodness of the word of God and the powers of the age to come, 6 and then have fallen away, to restore them again to repentance, since they are crucifying once again the Son of God to their own harm and holding him up to contempt.

Apostasy is not just an issue for half-hearted disciples. Christian leaders choose to be apostates because they love money, power, prestige, lust, greed, and other vices. They know the truth and reject it to pursue these other idols.

The problem is that when they fall away, they don't leave the church. They continue as Pastors, Elders, teachers or authors. They pretend to be Christians...they profess faithfulness even while trying to destroy truth. They are the most dangerous internal threat to the Church...They are Judas. The disciples had no clue that Judas was an apostate...until he revealed it.

The early church had to address the Judaizers whose false gospel teaching was undermining the church at Galatian. They were demanding that new Gentiles get Circumcised and obey the Law....Paul has choice words for them. He wants to castrate themselves.

Galatians 5:12 (ESV) 12 I wish those who unsettle you would emasculate themselves!

No really Paul tell us how you feel.

IMAGE 2 Today Apostates are rampant in televangelists and pastors. Personal sins, moral failures, false prophecies, and phony miracles and butchering the Word of God with their teaching are an abomination to the Lord and a danger to all who are impacted by them.

Moral Failures

Their moral failures- Paula White married three times. In her first marriage, she met an associate pastor at her church. She had one child and was married, He had three children and was married. They had a relationship and divorced their spouses so they could get married. The church they founded was under two congressional investigations regarding ministry finances and taxes. Her current marriage to a band member of Journey occurred while the band member was still married to someone else. and in 2010, Paula White had an well published extramarital affair with Benny Hinn....The Spiritual leader of our country should not have even one of these issues in their past. Speaking of emasculation, Robert Morris a known child rapist....Ted Haggard who professed to be the Pastor for Godly families indulged in a homosexual relationship and crack addiction...I could go on for hours but moral failures are signs of apostates. Jesus said you would know by their fruit....fruitless trees, no root, twice dead.

False Prophecy

False prophecy...Shawn Bolz at Bethel...yes the music Bethel...Shawn Bolz obtained information on social media ahead of events and read them from his phone claiming to be a prophet. Peter Popoff used a secret earpiece while people read him details filled out on cards when entering the service. Fruitless trees, no root, twice dead.

False Miracles

False miracles....Joe White's leg lengthening magic trick....Benny Hinn... watch out for the magic coat...Speaking of Bethel...their apostate Lead Pastor Bill Johnson teaches grave

sucking. Laying on and praying over graves trying to suck out what is left of that persons anointing in the Spirit. and Fruitless trees, no root, twice dead.

False Teaching

Joel Osteen is the king of false teaching from the pulpit. I don't believe that he has ever actually studied the Bible or could explain the gospel message accurately. For that reason, I am not sure that he is an apostate. I think he is just spiritually ignorant.. Kathryn Krick claims to be an apostle and believes that she has extrabiblical revelations (She speaks for God) and literally butchers Scriptures on healing and demonic influences. I am not sure if she has read the bible either... However, those leading the Word of Faith ministries are true apostates.

IMAGE 3 The Word of Faith movement is full of heresy...all promote the prosperity gospel. They are dangerous and seem to embrace each other's wild theological ideas. They are a traveling circus for Satan. They broadcast all over the world sharing their heresies on the Trinity Broadcasting Network.

Kenneth Copeland, Crefloe Dollar, Benny Hinn Paula White, Robert Tilton, Joyce Meyer, TD Jakes and Stephen Furtyk are all Word of Faith leaders. They teach multiple heresies...First, the "little gods" theology. They teach that we are all little gods....rather than children of God. They teach that we all are gods and are growing to become God. They teach that we are gods and are divine beings. But the truth is that we are image bearers not gods, co-heirs no co-divine, and our authority comes not from us but from Christ.

Second, they teach that God is obligated to obey people's words. AKA Name it Claim it. Third, God's favor always results in riches. Fourth, they teach that Jesus was born just like us. Not fully God and not fully man and thus Jesus had to be born again. They deny the trinity and have all sorts of variations on the topic...

Several of them, Joyce Meyer most known teach that they are actually sinless. I guess that she has never read 1 John where God tells us that if we say we have no sin, the spirit is not in us. She is case and point. WOF teachers also claim that they receive direct extrabiblical messages from God constantly on a moment by moment basis. . They also believe that in addition to the cross, even though Jesus said it is finished, that Jesus had to go and suffer in hell under Satan's authority in order to fully pay for our sins and that Jesus stopped being God when He was on the cross. In addition to all of these heresies....Paula White goes even further.

Paula White- teaches often that multiple faiths lead to God and to salvation. Salvation not based on faith alone but also works and giving...to her ministry. She has taught that all people regardless of their faith in Jesus will go to Heaven and she is the one supposedly trying to help our President find Jesus and guiding our nation spiritually. Fruitless trees, no root, twice dead.

Wow Frank...you are being harsh...Here is what you need to know...I am not perfect...but I have been reborn in Christ.

An apostate is not someone who is indifferent or uneducated about the Word of God and God's truth. Someone who has never heard the truth is never an "apostate". Even though they could be a teacher in a false religion. An Apostate is far worse than that.

An apostate is someone who received the light but not the life, the seed but not the fruit, the written word but not the living word, the truth but not a love for truth.

2 Thessalonians 2:9–10 (ESV) 9 The coming of the lawless one is by the activity of Satan with all power and false signs and wonders, 10 and with all wicked deception for those who are perishing, because they refused to love the truth and so be saved.

All apostates at one point or another have willingly...willingly...willingly ...rejected the truth with sufficient knowledge and understanding to be fully accountable for it. That is what makes the sin of Apostasy so evil..it begins with a deliberate rejection of the truth after it has been heard and understood.

Let's look at an example of apostasy in Scripture.

Acts 8:4–8 (ESV) 4 Now those who were scattered went about preaching the word. 5 Philip went down to the city of Samaria and proclaimed to them the Christ. 6 And the crowds with one accord paid attention to what was being said by Philip, when they heard him and saw the signs that he did. 7 For unclean spirits, crying out with a loud voice, came out of many who had them, and many who were paralyzed or lame were healed. 8 So there was much joy in that city.

Notice where Philip is...Samaria...those pesky Samaritans are being saved..Not just Gentiles but Samaritans too.

Acts 8:9–11 (ESV) 9 But there was a man named Simon, who had previously practiced magic in the city and amazed the people of Samaria, saying that he himself was somebody great. 10 They all paid attention to him, from the least to the greatest, saying, "This man is the power of God that is called Great." 11 And they paid attention to him because for a long time he had amazed them with his magic.

Simon was a professional con artist. He did magic tricks and claimed they were from God. But when the truth..the Gospel... came everything changed.

Acts 8:12–13 (ESV) 12 But when they believed Philip as he preached good news about the kingdom of God and the name of Jesus Christ, they were baptized, both men and women. 13 Even Simon himself believed, and after being baptized he continued with Philip. And seeing signs and great miracles performed, he was amazed.

Fantastic right? Not so fast. There can be no doubt that Philip's message was clear, complete, accurate and left nothing out of the Gospel of Christ. The Good News...the Good truth was preached and many responded.

At first Simon's conversion seemed authentic. He was baptized, continued with them and was amazed. True signs and wonders were done by God not just magic tricks. Simon knew better than almost anyone that these miracles were in fact miracles.

He at least on a superficial level believed and he saw the truth and understood it, but then everything changes.

Acts 8:18–19 (ESV) 18 Now when Simon saw that the Spirit was given through the laying on of the apostles' hands, he offered them money, 19 saying, "Give me this power also, so that anyone on whom I lay my hands may receive the Holy Spirit."

Simon tried to buy the power to do their miracles. In that moment his true heart is revealed. He desperately wanted the power to perform that miracle at will....Now remember, he had professed belief, been baptized, became part of their fellowship, saw the signs and was amazed. By all outward appearances his faith seemed authentic.

But the Apostles had spiritual discernment...Peter steps in...and minces no words.

Acts 8:20–23 (ESV) 20 But Peter said to him, "May your silver perish with you, because you thought you could obtain the gift of God with money! 21 You have neither part nor lot in this matter, for your heart is not right before God. 22 Repent, therefore, of this wickedness of yours, and pray to the Lord that, if possible, the intent of your heart may be forgiven you. 23 For I see that you are in the gall of bitterness and in the bond of iniquity."

Peter perceived that Simon's desire to buy the miracles was evidence that this magician was not a true believer. And Peter speaks of forgiveness as if it may not be possible even if Simon Repents. "Pray to Lord that if possible your sin may be forgiven you. "

Acts 8:24–25 (ESV) 24 And Simon answered, "Pray for me to the Lord, that nothing of what you have said may come upon me." 25 Now when they had testified and spoken the word of the Lord, they returned to Jerusalem, preaching the gospel to many villages of the Samaritans.

Not that I would change, Simon says...but that I would not receive that punishment. He seems truly shaken by Peter's rebuke but it doesn't seem to last long. Simon is not mentioned again in Scripture...

However, Justin Martyr in the early church was also a Samaritan and from the same region. He lives a generation apart from Simon. He along with Irenaeus both report that Simon began one of the very first quasi-Christian cults.

Irenaeus wrote that Simon combined his magic tricks and used biblical imagery and terminology to claim that he himself was the true God incarnate. He is known in church history as Simon Magus and took his name from the term simony meaning selling church offices for money.

No one is more dangerous in the Christian faith than a popular apostate.

Let me share with you a truth about them....those who have seen the truth of the gospel, professed to believe it, and then turned away from the faith have no hope of redemption.

Hebrews 6:3–6 (ESV) 3 And this we will do if God permits. 4 For it is impossible, in the case of those who have once been enlightened, who have tasted the heavenly gift, and have shared in the Holy Spirit, 5 and have tasted the goodness of the word of God and the powers of the age to come, 6 and then have fallen away, to restore them again to repentance, since they are crucifying once again the Son of God to their own harm and holding him up to contempt.

Hebrews 10:26–27 (ESV) 26 For if we go on sinning deliberately after receiving the knowledge of the truth, there no longer remains a sacrifice for sins, 27 but a fearful expectation of judgment, and a fury of fire that will consume the adversaries.

This kind of apostasy with a tone of utter finality suggest that those who willingly fall never come back to the truth. Peter echoed the same

2 Peter 2:19–22 (ESV). 20 For if, after they have escaped the defilements of the world through the knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, they are again entangled in them and overcome, the last state has become worse for them than the first. 21 For it would have been better for them never to have known the way of righteousness than after knowing it to turn back from the holy commandment delivered to them. 22 What the true proverb says has happened to them: “The dog returns to its own vomit, and the sow, after washing herself, returns to wallow in the mire.”

Apostasy in Scriptures

In the Old Testament apostasy began when the Satan met Eve in the garden. From that moment God's Truth had been challenged and Satan had played his most effective and enduring card.

Genesis 3:1 (ESV) 1 Now the serpent was more crafty than any other beast of the field that the Lord God had made. He said to the woman, “Did God actually say, ‘You shall not eat of any tree in the garden?’”

Apostasy always begins with those words...Did God Really Say?

The Prophet Elijah immediately after his victory on Mt Carmel and when Jezebel was chasing him, at one point thought that he was the last true believer alive. He lives at a time when Israel had several million inhabitants. God said, well you aren't the only one, but we are down to 7000

1 Kings 19:18 (ESV) 18 Yet I will leave seven thousand in Israel, all the knees that have not bowed to Baal, and every mouth that has not kissed him.”

Throughout Elijah's life the number continued to decrease. Almost everyone in Israel was hostile to Jeremiah. After 40 years of preaching the prophet essentially stood alone.

There is no evidence in Scripture that he ever saw a single convert. The prophet Jeremiah reported the same.

Jeremiah 2:19 (ESV) 19 Your evil will chastise you, and your apostasy will reprove you. Know and see that it is evil and bitter for you to forsake the Lord your God; the fear of me is not in you, declares the Lord God of hosts.

The fear of God is not in you....apostasy. By the time Jesus was born, Israel had become almost totally apostate. Almost everyone missed the significance of His birth and He was eventually murdered as an imposter and a threat to known religion. Apostasy was rampant in the Scriptures.

And Apostasy has been a reality throughout the history of the Christian movement. When Jesus performed miracles people were drawn to Him but when He proclaimed truth they turned away in masse.

John 6:66 (ESV) 66 After this many of his disciples turned back and no longer walked with him.

No one taught the Gospel message more accurately than Jesus. People heard the truth, understood it and turned away. When they saw the truth the way He defined it, they hated it. Too demanding, too inconvenient, too much a threat to their own agenda, and too much judgment of their sin.

Apostasy was at the beginning of the Scriptures and it will be widespread at the end of the age. We have already covered the apostasy of false teachers and wolves. But a major event in the future of the end times is that there will be a worldwide rejection of the truth and of Christ. The antichrist takes his throne.

2 Thessalonians 2:3–4 (ESV) 3 Let no one deceive you in any way. For that day will not come, unless the rebellion comes first, and the man of lawlessness is revealed, the son of destruction, 4 who opposes and exalts himself against every so-called god or object of worship, so that he takes his seat in the temple of God, proclaiming himself to be God.

Apostasy today

Apostates are everywhere...teaching lies, reinventing doctrines, redefining or denying truth, and teaching their fabricated gospels. But they don't wear "I am an apostate" T shirts. They don't try to stand out as enemies of truth.

They are likeable, articulate, seemingly intelligent, charismatic, attractive and persuasive. Jude warns us that they are hard to identify.

Jude 3–4 (ESV) 4 For certain people have crept in unnoticed who long ago were designated for this condemnation, ungodly people, who pervert the grace of our God into sensuality and deny our only Master and Lord, Jesus Christ.

They came in unnoticed.

But there is a worse problem. In the Post Modern World where there is no defined truth, many argue that there is no need to engage in a battle for truth. Since truth is changeable, let's make room for everyone's views and stop arguing about it. The mantra of the world today is "Isn't it time to set aside our differences and just love one another? Let's just have a cordial dialogue and see where we end up. "

We are called to be cordial and to treat others with respect. To live peaceably if all possible with all men, and yes we are not to have a mean or arrogant spirit. But not at the expense of truth.

Sometimes conflict is not avoidable. Jude wrote to remain faithful to truth especially when false believers were stealthy attacking with false doctrines.

That is why Jude said I wrote to you to exhort you to contend earnestly for the faith. The Greek word for earnestly means to agonize against. It implies a continuous non ending fight. Nothing passive or peaceful about it. It is a call to war for truth.

When Jude says he felt it necessary to write, he used a verb that speak of intense pressure like a compulsion. He is not taking joy in being oppositional. This is not his own personal anger. This is critical because the writers of scripture never wrote by human self will.

2 Peter 1:20–21 (ESV) 20 knowing this first of all, that no prophecy of Scripture comes from someone's own interpretation. 21 For no prophecy was ever produced by the will of man, but men spoke from God as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit.

What are we fighting for? The faith which was once for all delivered to the saints.

Jude 17–19 (ESV) 17 But you must remember, beloved, the predictions of the apostles of our Lord Jesus Christ. 18 They said to you, "In the last time there will be scoffers, following their own ungodly passions." 19 It is these who cause divisions, worldly people, devoid of the Spirit.

No one invented the Christian faith. It was delivered to us from God through the Apostles. It was delivered once and for all. It came by revelation, through the teaching of the Apostles and preserved for us in the Scriptures. Jude speaks of the faith as a complete truth that came once and needs no additional revelation.

We are simply interpreting, understanding, publishing, defending and surrendering to the truth that God has delivered once and for all to the church.

We are not called into some intellectual school debate. We are called to a very serious struggle for the hearts of men and to unleash truth against the powers of darkness. All to save the souls of men and women who have been entrapped by satanic deceptions.

In doing so, we cannot appear to the world as nice, nonchalant, agreeable and fun loving. We can't take our cues from people who are content to compromise the truth.

Jesus and the Apostles never confronted soul destroying error by being collegial. When the Christian faith is under attack we are to content earnestly. But we are only called to this battle over the core truth's of the faith. Not over petty issues withing the church.

The Apostate

Jude said that apostates have crept in unnoticed. He is not talking about a non believer who came in the side door under a disguise during one service. He is talking about people who had already gained wide acceptance and respect as members of the Flock.

In the worst cases, they had attained status as leaders and teachers. They were now using their influence to undermine the true faith quietly and subtly for their own purposes. They are spiritual terrorists....parasites...feeding on the church for their own selfish benefit.

Jude 4 (ESV) Ungodly people, who pervert the grace of our God into sensuality and deny our only Master and Lord, Jesus Christ.

He calls these imposters hidden reefs in your love feasts...Love feasts were the term they used for the service and meal that included communion.

Jude 12–13 (ESV) 12 These are hidden reefs at your love feasts, as they feast with you without fear, shepherds feeding themselves; waterless clouds, swept along by winds; fruitless trees in late autumn, twice dead, uprooted; 13 wild waves of the sea, casting up the foam of their own shame; wandering stars, for whom the gloom of utter darkness has been reserved forever.

They are dangerous spiritual hazards just underneath the surface...lurking to They cause disastrous spiritual shipwrecks.

They are far more dangerous than someone who protests outside the church. Throughout church history, the church has always been damaged more by internal attacks than external ones. All truly effective attacks against the gospel have come from people pretending to be Christians- not from atheists or agnostics outside the church.

Every writer in the New Testament at one point or another mentions this false teaching inside the church.

One example is in Thessalonica. Someone apparently orchestrated a scheme to make people think that Jesus had already come to gather His people to Himself and tha the church at Thessalonica was left behind.

They received a phony letter supposedly from Paul notifying them that the day of the lord was already here.

2 Thessalonians 2:1–3 (ESV) 1 Now concerning the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ and our being gathered together to him, we ask you, brothers, 2 not to be quickly shaken in mind or alarmed, either by a spirit or a spoken word, or a letter seeming to be from us, to the effect that the day of the Lord has come. 3 Let no one deceive you in any way.

Paul warned Timothy about a similar internal attack.

2 Timothy 2:17–18 (ESV) 17 and their talk will spread like gangrene. Among them are Hymenaeus and Philetus, 18 who have swerved from the truth, saying that the resurrection has already happened. They are upsetting the faith of some.

So it is absolutely clear from Scripture that heretics, apostates, rebels, and false teachers infiltrated the church very early and in surprising abundance. And when Jude wrote this Spirit-inspired caution about the influence of false teachers who sneak in unnoticed—“ungodly men, who turn the grace of our God into lewdness and deny the only Lord God and our Lord Jesus Christ” (v. 4)—he wasn’t speaking only to a single church facing an unusual peril. This is a message that applies to every true believer in every age.

Closing

What is truth? Truth is Jesus and truth are the Holy Scriptures...Given to us through the Apostles. the real apostles, the 12 plus Paul and they were delivered once and for all. There are no additional revelations from God. No new gospel. No new take on the original gospel. Apostates are not just false teachers...or mistaken teachers...or uneducated teachers...they are Spiritual Terrorists.. They have infiltrated our culture....our church family...they work hard to blend in and appear to be like us. They say the right things most of the time. But they are here to destroy us. They are a cohesive group of people who want to destroy those who follow Jesus. They believe in an ideology and theology that is not ours. They undermine the mission of those they oppose. Choosing more subtle attacks than declaring themselves outright. Every book of the New Testament warns us about them. Jude took those warning to red and flashing. His letter is a call to battle stations. He is trying to wake us up. We must protect the truth. We must stop the Spiritual terrorists before they can strike. Jesus said you would identify them by their fruit or lack thereof. They are fruitless trees, no root, twice dead...Let's pray.