

What Shall We Do?

Jude 1:20-23

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, looking for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ unto
eternal life. 22 And on some have compassion, making a distinction; 23 but others save with
fear, pulling them out of the fire, hating even the garment defiled by the flesh.

I have had several inquires about the events of this last week and what Christians ought to do
now.

I did not have this planned but this passage speaks so clearly to that question. In Jude's day the
apostates were all around. Many no doubt thought it would be easier to give up. Or maybe found
a monastery and cut off all contact with the rest of this crazy world.

But then how would we be salt and light in the world if we did that. No, Jude tells us that we are
to continue as before.

I hear a lot of talk about how conservatives need to change in order to get more votes. To me that
is like saying we should eat more garbage so that we can get more food.

Jude's plan is not that since they can not change the situation they should now compromise and
give in on the basic principles in order to draw the apostates in.

I. Building Yourselves up on Your Most Holy Faith

A. Notice your is in the plural.

1. The idea is that the saints in the church are to help one another do this.
2. Elijah of old got depressed when he thought that he was the only one left.
3. So Jesus set up churches to accomplish this.

B. Building up.

1. Jesus has established us in the faith through the Word and the Holy Spirit
and other Christians.
2. But He expects us to continue to build on what He has started.
3. 2 Timothy 2:15 (NKJV) 15 Be diligent to present yourself approved to
God, a worker who does not need to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word
of truth.
4. Unless you study all of the Word of God, get down in the good, rich soil,
you are not going to become a sturdy, healthy plant. It won't be long until
you will be stepped on and the sun will burn you out. You will not be able
to stand in days like these. McGee, J. V. (1997). Thru the Bible

commentary (electronic ed.) (Jud 20). Nashville: Thomas Nelson.

5. “The saints are exhorted to build up their Christian lives on the foundation of all that God has done for them in salvation, such as making them a partaker of the divine nature and giving them the indwelling Holy Spirit, together with the Word of God.” Wuest

C. On your most holy faith.

1. It is ours but it is God’s.
2. That is why it is right, because it is God’s
3. Our faith is not built on what any man says but on the testimony of Jesus.
4. 1 John 5:4-5 4 For whatever is born of God overcomes the world. And this is the victory that has overcome the world -- our faith.5 Who is he who overcomes the world, but he who believes that Jesus is the Son of God? NKJV
5. There is nothing else.
 - a. When Jesus said to the disciples in John 10, “Will you also go away?”, Peter said, "Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life” John 6:68 NKJV
6. So can we add to it or change it?
 - a. Can we make abortion acceptable to God?
 - b. Can we make homosexuality and other sexually immoral life styles acceptable to God?
 - c. Can we make mind altering drugs acceptable to God?
 - d. Our founding fathers knew that the freedoms and rights we have were granted us from God; do you suppose they thought that these were a part of that? I dare say not.
 - e. Even if we stand alone against all of America, we cannot change what God has delivered to us.

II. Praying in the Holy Spirit

- A. 26 Likewise the Spirit also helps in our weaknesses. For we do not know what we should pray for as we ought, but the Spirit Himself makes intercession ⁷for us with groanings which cannot be uttered. Romans 8:26
- B. Ephesians 6:18 (NKJV) 18 praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, being watchful to this end with all perseverance and supplication for all the saints--

- C. “prayer is the vital factor in the Christian life which activates all the other departments of the Christian experience.” Wuest, K. S.

III. Keep Yourselves in the Love of God

- A. It is tempting to become bitter against those who oppose the things of God.
- B. But we must remember that they are blinded by Satan.
 - 1. 2 Cor 4:3 But even if our gospel is veiled, it is veiled to those who are perishing,⁴ whose minds the god of this age has blinded, who do not believe, lest the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine on them. NKJV
 - 2. Eph 6:10-13 ¹⁰ Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord and in the power of His might.¹¹ Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the Wiles of the devil.¹² For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this age, against spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places.¹³ Therefore take up the whole armor of God, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand. NKJV

IV. Looking for the Mercy of Our Lord Jesus Christ unto Eternal Life

- A. As I said a few weeks ago, if someone is drilling holes in the bottom of the boat, we need to take the drill away from them, but we do not have to beat them over the head with it.
- B. God has dealt with us with mercy so then all our actions ought to be measured with mercy.
 - 1. We do not know what God will do.
 - 2. The best way to take the drill out of their hand to bring them to Jesus and He can change their whole life.
 - 3. Sometimes we are forced to deal sternly with our children, but we still love them and have great mercy for them. That is why everyone thinks that other people spoil their children.
- C. Rom 2:4 do you despise the riches of His goodness, forbearance, and longsuffering, not knowing that the goodness of God leads you to repentance? NKJV

V. On Some Have Compassion, Making a Distinction

- A. Different translations translate this differently.
- B. Because of the love of God and the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ we have compassion.

1. On some that compassion is wasted.
 - a. It is like casting pearls before swine, they do not appreciate the measure of God's grace.
2. But on others God sends the Holy Spirit to convict them and bring them into the kingdom.
3. We do not know who will accept and those who will not so we must give all the message.

VI. But Others Save with Fear, Pulling Them out of the Fire

- A. It is like plucking something from the fire before it is consumed in the flame.
- B. The fireman will put his own life on the line to rescue someone in a fire.
- C. Metaphorically that is what we do when we reach others with the gospel message.

VII. Hating Even the Garment Defiled by the Flesh

- A. But while we have the love of God and the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ and we have compassion, yet we do not take a soft view of the sin they are involved in.
- B. We are to have compassion of the sinner not on the sin.
- C. The world has taken the compassion toward the sinner and changed their view of the sin.
 1. First of all people don't sin they are sick.
 - a. The truth of the matter is that they are dead in sin.
 - b. Eph 2:1-3 And you He made alive, who were dead in trespasses and sins,² in which you once walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit who now works in the sons of disobedience,³ among whom also we all once conducted ourselves in the lusts of our flesh, fulfilling the desires of the flesh and of the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, just as the others. NKJV
 2. We are to hate sin, that which destroys peoples lives without hating them.
 3. For "we all once conducted ourselves in the lusts of our flesh, fulfilling the desires of the flesh and of the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, just as the others"

So what are we to do now?

We are to be the best Christians we can.

We are to imitate our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

He never promised us that we would bring heaven here on this earth, but we can bring people to heaven.