

Recognizing the Enemy

Jude 1:8-10

I. Renounce Rebellion (v.8) When you are training for war, you must prepare in several ways. War will require everything that you have! It is one of the most boring times with about 15 or 20 minutes of high adrenaline mixed in. In these verses, Jude shares three main areas that all Christians must renounce, remove, and resist in the fight against false teachings creeping into the church. As we train for spiritual warfare, we must be able to recognize the enemy! We must have discernment in identifying the enemy. As we train to fight for the gospel against false teaching, may we endure for the cause of Jesus Christ. Paul tells Timothy “train yourself for the purpose of godliness.” (1 Timothy 4:7). The first trait we identify in the enemy is rebellion! False teachers desire to create division. They cause upheaval and unrest. They do not like authority, but crave to avoid, annoy, and annihilate it. They thrive on gossip and not the gospel. The phrase “their dreams” in verse 8 is referring to desires that are not in line with the furthering of the Kingdom. In this context, Jude is referring to the sexual immorality mentioned in verse 7. Renounce rebellion, run from it. They, the false teachers, hate authority. I am hated for sharing that sin is sin and that we must repent from sin. You will also be hated for telling the truth.

2 Tim. 3:12 ***“all who wish to be Godly in Christ Jesus will be persecuted.”*** 1 Cor. 6:19-20 ***“Or do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit within you, whom you have from God? You are not your own, 20 for you were bought with a price. So glorify God in your body.”*** So how do I renounce rebellion, especially when the whole world says it’s ok?

Develop a daily discipline (W⁴ = 1. Walking with Christ through Prayer & Scripture, 2. Worship Christ, 3. Witness to others about Christ, 4. Work and serve in the local church.)

“It’s hard to throw stones when you’re busy washing feet.”

The enemy is identified with rebellion, and we must renounce it!

II. Remove Pride (v.9) The enemy is identified with Arrogance, placing oneself above authority, especially the authority of Christ and God’s Word causes a person to turn away from striving to learn and live the Word of God. A clear example of this is in Matthew 28:17-18, after Jesus had risen from the grave and was about to ascend into Heaven, He said: ***“And when they saw him they worshiped him, but some doubted. 18 And Jesus came and said to them, “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me.”*** In verse 9, Jude is possibly using a reference from a Jewish book that was common to that community, called the Testament of Moses. No known full copies have survived, but fragments have suffused. We also see Moses’ death

referenced here from Deut. 34. This is a very hard to interpret verse, but what we do know is that two angels are arguing, Satan, the fallen angel, whose arrogance against the authority of God caused him to leave Heaven. Michael, the archangel uses the authority of God to rebuke Satan. We must remove pride by reminding ourselves of our desperate dependency upon Christ. John 15:5 ***"I am the vine; you are the branches. Whoever abides in me and I in him, he it is that bears much fruit, for apart from me you can do nothing."*** These false teachers that Jude is referring to lacked humility before Christ, they were prideful. We must remove pride and arrogance to replace it with Christ alone! An enemy of the is identified as prideful, we must remove pride.

III. Resist Ignorance (v.10) "these people blaspheme all that they do not understand..." There is a lot we do not understand, but unlike animals who instinctively respond to urges, we are called as believers to learn the Word of God and resist these urges. I referred to this passage last week, but I believe it is very fitting here. Listen to 2 Tim. 3:16-17 ***"16 All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, 17 that the man of God[b] may be complete, equipped for every good work."***

False teachers do not want to submit to any type of authority, especially God's Word. We have to resist ignorance through the analyzation and application of God's Word. Cult groups grab those who do not know the Word of God.

As we train to fight for the gospel, may we train knowing that Jesus is worth it! Train identifying and renouncing rebellion, removing pride, and resisting ignorance.

What do we do when the enemy is detected?

Romans 5:10: ***"For if while we were enemies we were reconciled to God by the death of his Son, much more, now that we are reconciled, shall we be saved by his life."***

1. Remember that we were all enemies of God before a relationship with Christ. Have compassion!
2. Regularly share the truth of scripture, the gospel, with love. (Offensive Warfare)
3. Request God's powerful moving on their behalf. (Airstrike)