

Jude Pt. 4

“Guarding the Purity of the Church”

Intro- As Jude (Jesus’ beloved half-brother), wraps up the letter, he continues to show great concern for something that can do great damage- even kill a good church.

- I. **Vs. 12-16 Watch out for These Kind of Men...** The term is often used as **Apostates**- people pretending to be true Christians. What’s crazy is how often we find these types of people wanting to _____ or influence others. **Note:** Being an apostate is one thing, but the sad thing is when true Christians _____ their faith after the apostate’s ways. So, the warning goes to both groups.

Jude draws pictures for us to show the true qualities of these dangerous people:

1. **Hidden reefs** (v.12...)- they seem like a _____ place spiritually, but they can cause shipwreck to your faith.
2. **Feast Without Fear**- Love feasts- were the extended meals that the early church partook in, where they would also take communion. These men had absolutely no _____ of the Lord, taking communion for show, or for a mere snack.
3. **Caring for Themselves**- Instead of using their influence to feed God’s people healthy spiritual food, they exploit the believers for their _____ selfish gain, and sometimes it’s just to get a following.
4. **Clouds without water**- They lacked the true Living Water of the Gospel and are therefore blown around by whatever personal _____ hits them.
5. **Trees without fruit**- This is so common today, but Apostates, or false teachers, claim to provide a huge spiritual feast, but instead deliver spiritual _____ because it’s usually a distortion of what scripture says. (Luke 13:6-9). **Doubly dead** because they not only don’t

produce fruit, they are not attached to the vine- i.e, thus there is no _____ root there (**Matt. 7:15-20**)

6. **Wild Waves** (v. 13...)- It’s likely that Jude is drawing from **Is. 57:20**- “*But the wicked are like the troubled sea, when it cannot rest, whose waters cast up mire and dirt.*” True teachers of the Word will produce treasures from the depth, but the shame of what false teachers produce will surface for _____ to see (**2 Tim. 3:8-9**).
7. **Wandering Stars**- Most likely refers to a meteor or shooting star which has an uncontrolled moment of brilliance and then _____ away forever into empty darkness. Our Lord is compared to a star (Rev.2:28; 22:16- The “*Bright Morning Star*”) and Christians are to shine as stars in this dark world (**Phil. 2:15**). Fixed stars can be depended upon to guide the travelers through the darkness whereas “wandering stars” can only lead them _____.
8. **Grumblers** (v.16)- Similar to the words used by wandering Israel who complained against God (Exod.16:7-12). **Finding Fault**- their spiritual condition lends itself toward discontentment about their lives, _____ recognizing God’s sovereign plan at work, even through trials (**Jam.1:12-13**)
9. **Following after their own lusts**- again this is not sexual lust, here, but more doing Christianity in the power of the _____ instead of the Spirit- which is all that non-Christians can do really without a personal relationship with Christ.

Take aways:

1. To God, His truth in our church _____ greatly!! (**1 Tim. 3:15**)
2. The purity of what the church believes, has to be _____ (**1 Tim. 4:16**)
3. Don’t always believe every _____ (**1 John 4:1**)
4. Remember, a mark of spiritual maturity is the ability to _____ the counterfeit (**Heb. 5:12**)