

## Our Identity Reminded | Jude 1-2

Jude, a servant of Jesus Christ and brother of James. To those who are called, beloved in God the Father and kept for Jesus Christ: may mercy, peace, and love be multiplied to you.

### GENERAL INTRODUCTION

#### 1. Who is Jude?

- a. The younger brother of Jesus
  - i. "Is not this the carpenter's son? Is not his mother called Mary? And are not his brothers James and Joseph and Simon and Judas?" (Matthew 13:55)
  - ii. "Is not this the carpenter, the son of Mary and brother of James and Joses and Judas and Simon? And are not his sisters here with us?" (Mark 6:3)
- b. The younger brother of James
- c. The family of Jesus
  - i. "And when his family heard it, they went out to seize him, for they were saying, 'He is out of his mind.'" (Mark 3:21)

#### 2. Why is Jude writing to the Church?

- a. Relation to 2 Peter
  - i. The second epistle of Peter is closely related to Jude. Whereas Peter (and other authors) warn of false teachers, Jude that they are now present.
    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 Peter 2:1)
- b. Contending for the Gospel
  - i. "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." (Jude 3)
- c. False Teachers are present in the Church
  - i. "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." (Jude 4)

## AN IDENTITY REMINDED

1. You have been purchased
  - a. The Christian is first redeemed;
  - b. The Christian belongs to Christ;
    - i. “Do you not know that if you present yourselves to anyone as obedient slaves, you are slaves of the one whom you obey, either of sin, which leads to death, or of obedience which leads to righteousness? But thanks be to God, that you who were once slaves of sin have become obedient from the heart to the standard of teaching to which you were committed, and, having been set free from sin, have become slaves of righteousness.” (Romans 6:16-18)

## AN IDENTITY RECEIVED

1. You have been called by the Holy Spirit
  - a. The Effectual Calling: God calling the sinner to Himself through the proclamation of the gospel by the power of the Holy Spirit;
  - b. Regeneration: A work of the Holy Spirit in the heart of man; bringing them from spiritual death to spiritual life in Christ.
    - i. “In him you also, when you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, and believed in him, were sealed with the promised Holy Spirit, who is the guarantee of our inheritance until we acquire possession of it, to the praise of his glory.” (Ephesians 1:13-14)
2. You are loved by the Father
  - a. The Father pursues and adopts His children
    - i. “Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places, even as he chose us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and blameless before him. In love he predestined us for adoption to himself as sons through Jesus Christ, according to the purpose of his will...” (Ephesians 1:3-5)
3. You are kept by the Son
  - a. Christians are kept by and through the work of Jesus for them on the cross;
  - b. Perseverance is a double sided coin
    - i. “In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of his grace, which he lavished upon us, in all wisdom and insight...” (Ephesians 1:7-8)
    - ii. “...keep yourselves in the love of God...” (Jude 21)

## AN ACTIVE IDENTITY

1. You have received mercy to be merciful
  - a. God has poured His mercy out onto the undeserving sinner;
    - i. "But God, being rich in mercy, because of the great love with which he loved us, even when we were dead in our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ..." (Ephesians 2:4-5)
  - b. Christians have received mercy and should extend mercy;
    - i. "Be merciful, even as your Father is merciful." (Luke 6:36)
2. You have received peace to proclaim peace
  - a. By God's grace, the Christian is no longer at war with God;
  - b. The Christian proclaims the gospel of God to those who don't know Him
3. You have received love to love others
  - a. The Christian is loved because they have been loved by God first;
  - b. The Christian demonstrates what God has done for them by loving others;
    - i. "...God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit who has been given to us." (Romans 5:5)

## BENEDICTION | Isaiah 43:1-3a

But now thus says the LORD, he who created you, O Jacob, he who formed you, O Israel:  
"Fear not, for I have redeemed you; I have called you by name, you are mine. When you pass through the waters, I will be with you; and through the rivers, they shall not overwhelm you; when you walk through fire you shall not be burned, and the flame shall not consume you. For I am the Lord your God..."