

The New Testament Church
The Book of Jude #4 – Jude 1:8-10; (2nd Peter 2:4-13) – Living Under Authority
January 26, 2025 - Pastor Paul Jehle

I Introduction and review of Jude - called to contend as well as continue in the faith

A. The Book of Jude

1. It is a summary of key truths to prepare the early Church for the “test” of evil rising
2. Be calm and confident as God allows the collapse of evil to manifest His Kingdom

B. A review of lessons one through three – Jude 1:1-7

1. Family is first test in Kingdom manifestation – Jesus is our example with his own family
2. Opposition causes us to clarify our beliefs (apologetics) – truth/error affects culture
3. Focusing on God’s mercy and His remnant overcomes pleasure, pride and power...

II Continuing in the Faith – Living under Authority – Jude 1:8-10

A. In order to continue in the faith, we need know how to live under Authority

1. Discerning Jurisdictions – what authorities are responsible for what areas (see back)?
 - a. Individual – we in authority of our mind, will and emotion – we learn to submit
 - b. Home – parents are responsible to teach their children to respect (age/authority)
 - c. Church – believers are to be under authority of a local church – learn submission
 - d. School/business – teachers, customers, owners – learn to submit to rules
 - e. State – citizens are to submit to “ordinances” of a civil nature
2. We are always “under authority” – consider Acts 23:1-5 – respect the position
 - a. Submission is distinct from obedience – the first an attitude, the latter an action
 - b. Only within the right parameters may we “submissively disobey” (see article)
3. James 4:7 – our submission to God must be greater than our resistance of evil!

B. v. 8 – ...*these dreamers defile the flesh, reject authority, and speak evil of dignitaries.*

1. These dreamers “defile the flesh” – sinful addictions of the body rooted in pleasure (1st Pet. 2:11 – defile the soul; but 1st Pet. 2:3; Ps. 34:8 – taste and see the Lord is good)
2. They “reject all authority” – their true goal is the exercise of their own power (Jesus never spoke on “his own authority” but the Father’s – John 12:49)
3. Finally, they “speak evil of dignitaries” – disrespectful attitudes rooted in pride (2nd Peter 2:10 – parallel passage; but 1st Peter 2:13 – submit to every ordinance)

C. v. 9 – *Yet Michael the archangel, in contending with the devil, when he disputed about the body of Moses, dared not bring a reviling accusation, but said ‘The Lord rebuke you!’*

1. Read the parallel passage from 2nd Peter 2:4-13 – covering the same topics as Jude here
2. Jude quotes from a lost apocryphal book called *The Assumption of Moses*
 - a. Apocrypha – Jewish historic books – did not measure up to the three-fold rule to be in the NT Scriptures (400 AD) – apostolic origin, church acceptance, consistency
 - b. Jude describes a battle between Michael and Lucifer over the body of Moses (Satan wanted Israel to worship Moses, and Michael wanted to keep his burial a secret)

We embrace an attitude of respect even if we can’t obey a corrupt power (Romans 13:5-7)

D. v. 10 – *But these speak evil of whatever they do not know; and whatever they know naturally, like brute beasts, in these things they corrupt themselves.*

1. Disrespect – “speaking evil of dignitaries” – mockery, sarcasm, are attitudes of pride
2. It is ignorance to do so, for we disrespect the authority of God who put them there
3. The individual will corrupt themselves, overplay their hand, and suffer judgment

Biblical Exhortations to respect delegated Authority (not “speaking evil of dignitaries”)

The **Individual:** *(is the responsibility of each individual to govern themselves)*

“The heart is deceitful above all things. And desperately wicked; Who can know it? – Jer. 17:9

“Keep your heart with all diligence, for out of it spring the issues of life.” – Pr. 4:23

“Whoever has no rule over his own spirit is like a city broken down, without walls” – Pr. 25:28

“Reckon yourselves to be dead... to sin, but alive to God in Christ Jesus our Lord.” – Ro. 6:11

The **Home:** *(it is the job of parents, and others, to demonstrate and teach respect to authority)*

- “Honor your father and your mother” – Exodus 20:12

- “Children, obey your parents in the Lord... honor your father and your mother... - Ephesians 6:1-2 – to *honor* is an attitude (respect), to *obey* is an action

- “I will send you Elijah the prophet... and he will turn the hearts of the fathers to the children, and the hearts of the children to their fathers” – Malachi 4:5-6

(The home extends this respect to both teachers in school, as well as leaders in business)

The **Church:** *(it is the job of all in a church to demonstrate and instill respect to leaders)*

- “And we urge you, brethren, to recognize (honor) those who labor among you, and are over you in the Lord and admonish you” – 1st Thessalonians 5:12

- “Let the elders who rule well be counted worthy of double honor, especially those who labor in the word and doctrine.” – 1st Timothy 5:17 (honor indicates an attitude of respect)

- “Obey those who rule over you, and be submissive, for they watch for your souls” – Hebrews 13:17 – (once again, submissive attitude is required at all times)

The **State:** *(it is the job of the home and church to instill respect for authorities in the public sphere; civil magistrates, police officers, and all public servants)*

- “...the Lord knows how to deliver the godly out of temptations and to reserve the unjust under punishment for the day of judgment, and especially those who walk according to the flesh in the lust of uncleanness and despise authority. They are presumptuous, self-willed. They are not afraid to speak evil of dignitaries, where as angels, who are greater in power and might, do not bring a reviling accusation against them before the Lord. But these, like natural brute beasts made to be caught and destroyed, speak evil of the things they do not understand, and will utterly perish in their own corruption.” (see Jude 1:8-10)

- “Let every soul be subject to the governing authorities, for there is no authority except from God, and the authorities that exist are appointed by God. Therefore, whoever resists the authority resists the ordinance of God, and those who resist will bring judgment on themselves.” – this admonition refers to the attitude of submission (or respect)

- “For rulers are not a terror to good works, but to evil. Do you want to be unafraid of the authority? Do what is good, and you will have praise from the same. For he is God’s minister to you for good. But if you do evil, be afraid; for he does not bear the sword in vain; for he is God’s minister, an avenger to execute wrath on him who practices evil.” (these verses deal with the limits of authority and obedience)

- “There you must be subject, not only because of wrath but also for conscience’ sake.” (again, this clause deals with respect – an attitude of submission) – Romans 13:1-5

Note: See the article, ***Whom Shall we Obey*** that delineates the parameters of when it may be necessary to “disobey submissively” when what is demanded requires us to disobey God’s Word.