

Date: January 4, 2026

Title: Keep Yourselves in the Love of God

Passage: Jude 20-21

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Jude 1:20–21

“But you, beloved, building yourselves up on your most holy faith, praying in the Holy Spirit, keep yourselves in the love of God, waiting for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ to eternal life.”

Summary:

Keep yourselves in the love of God by

- Remembering who you are in Christ Jesus.
- Growing in the faith.
- Praying in the Holy Spirit.
- Resting yourself in God's love.
- Welcoming mercy at the return of Christ

Key Truths :

- Beware of people who are praising God with their lips but their hearts are far from Him. Those who claim God's grace while living for themselves.
- Disobedient disbelief is to parse Jesus between as savior and as Lord.
- Jesus is the author and perfecter of our faith. All we are to do is build each other up in maturity in Christ.
- Know how deeply God loves you. If feel cold, stay grounded in Him and seek Him.

Possible Discussion Questions:

- What point(s) in the sermon did the Lord most impress upon you?
- Where are you denying or resisting our Lord total control over everything? To what extent has your heart said "Jesus is good enough to rescue me, but He is not good enough to rule me."
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- What next steps will you take in response to the truths you have been heard or seen?

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EXPOSITION

Jude 1:1a

“Jude, a slave of Jesus Christ, and brother of James,

Jude

- Author of the book.
- How does he first identify himself?
 - "a slave of Jesus Christ"
 - he grounds himself

Jude 1:4

“For certain persons have crept in unnoticed, those who were long beforehand marked out for this condemnation, ungodly persons who turn the grace of our God into sensuality and deny our only Master and Lord, Jesus Christ.”

- Caution of certain people:
 - "ungodly persons who turn the grace of our God into sensuality and deny our only Master and Lord, Jesus Christ."
 - People who profess faith in Jesus yet deny Him as Lord
 - Denial of Jesus as Master
 - They believe in Jesus yet do as they please (claim "grace")
 - They preach an empty tomb but also an empty throne.

Matthew 10:33

but whoever denies me before men, I also will deny before my Father who is in heaven.

- What does it mean to "deny"?
 - Deny Jesus as Lord
 - Deny Jesus His sovereign lordship.

Questions of Reflection

- How have you denied Jesus ownership over your life?
- Where are you denying or resisting our Lord's total control over everything?
- To what extent has your heart said "Jesus is good enough to rescue me, but He is not good enough to rule me."
- To what extent has your heart said "Jesus is good enough to serve me, but not subdue me."

Titus 2:11-14

For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation for all people, training us to renounce ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live self-controlled, upright, and godly lives in the present age, waiting for our blessed hope, the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ, who gave himself for us to redeem us from all

lawlessness and to purify for himself a people for his own possession who are zealous for good works.

Jude 1:1b

To those who are the called, beloved in God the Father, and kept for Jesus Christ:"

- Question: Why is Jesus our Lord?
 - "Who are called"
 - "beloved in God the Father"
 - "kept for Jesus Christ"
- We are called.
- We are loved by God.
- We are kept secure in Christ.

Jude 1:2

"May mercy and peace and love be multiplied to you."

Trinitarian love of God for those in Christ:

- Mercy = never judgment
- Peace = never wrath
- Love = never hate

Jude 1:3-4

"Beloved, while I was making every effort to write you about our common salvation, I felt the necessity to write to you exhorting that you contend earnestly for the faith which was once for all handed down to the saints. For certain persons have crept in unnoticed, those who were long beforehand marked out for this condemnation, ungodly persons who turn the grace of our God into sensuality and deny our only Master and Lord, Jesus Christ."

- Purpose of the book.
 - People in the church who claim Jesus as Savior but don't live as He is their Lord.

Jude 1:5

"Now I want to remind you, though you know all things, that Jesus, having once saved a people out of the land of Egypt, subsequently destroyed those who did not believe."

- Who saved the Israelites from Egypt?
 - Jesus

Hebrews 2

He took our flesh and not ashamed to call us His brothers.

- What did Jesus do to those who didn't obey Him as Lord?
 - *"subsequently destroyed those who did not believe."*
 - They disbelieved Jesus as Lord.
 - Disobedient disbelief is to parse Jesus between as savior and as Lord.
 - They were rescued out of Egypt but their hearts were not under God.

Jude 1:6-19

- Examples of people who have disobeyed God while praising Him with their lips. (v. 6-13) Those who claim God's grace while living for themselves.
- Examples as quoted from most ancient prophet, Enoch (v.14-16)
- Examples as quoted from most recent apostles (v.17-19)

Special Charge/Exhortation

Jude 1:20-21

"But you, beloved, building yourselves up on your most holy faith, praying in the Holy Spirit, keep yourselves in the love of God, waiting for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ to eternal life."

- Key: *"keep yourselves in the love of God"*
 - How?
 - *"building yourselves up on your most holy faith"*
 - *"praying in the Holy Spirit"*
 - *"waiting for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ to eternal life."*

FIVE EXHORTATIONS

I. KEEP YOURSELVES IN THE LOVE OF GOD BY REMEMBERING WHO YOU ARE IN CHRIST JESUS.

- Who are you?
 - "Beloved"
- Do you know how much God loves you or disbelieve Him?

1 John 4:19

We love because he first loved us.

Isaiah 62:5

For as a young man marries a young woman, so shall your sons marry you, and as the bridegroom rejoices over the bride, so shall your God rejoice over you.

- Marriage is a picture of how God loves His loved ones.

Song of Songs 6:3a

I am my beloved's and my beloved is mine;

- When was the last time you echoed this praise?
- In Christ: You are God's beloved. He is your God.

II. KEEP YOURSELVES IN THE LOVE OF GOD BY GROWING IN FAITH.

- *"building yourselves up on your most holy faith"*

How do we build ourselves up?

- Study and focus on who Jesus is.

Jesus

- He is the author of our faith.
- He is the perfecter of our faith
- Everything is to build us up in the love of God.

Hebrews 12:2

looking to Jesus, the founder and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is seated at the right hand of the throne of God.

Question of Reflection:

- Do you hear God saying "I love you" as you read the Bible?

Zechariah 3:2

And the LORD said to Satan, "The LORD rebuke you, O Satan! The LORD who has chosen Jerusalem rebuke you! Is not this a brand plucked from the fire?"

- God has rescued you from the fire.

III. KEEP YOURSELVES IN THE LOVE OF GOD BY PRAYING IN THE HOLY SPIRIT.

- *"praying in the Holy Spirit"*

What does it mean to pray?

- Talk with God.

Galatians 4:6

And because you are sons, God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, crying, "Abba! Father!"

- Be filled with the Holy Spirit by the Word of Christ.

Romans 8:26-27

Likewise the Spirit helps us in our weakness. For we do not know what to pray for as we ought, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us with groanings too deep for words. And he who searches hearts knows what is the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints according to the will of God.

1 Thessalonians 5:17

pray without ceasing

Ephesians 6:18

praying at all times in the Spirit, with all prayer and supplication. To that end, keep alert with all perseverance, making supplication for all the saints,

IV. KEEP YOURSELVES IN THE LOVE OF GOD BY RESTING YOURSELVES IN GOD'S LOVE

- *"keep yourselves in the love of God"*

What does it mean to rest in God's love?

- Refresh yourself with the truth.
- Remind yourself of the truth.
- Abide in the truth.

Questions of Reflection:

- When you feel cold, how can you rest in the love of God?
 - Do everything you can to rid yourself of the chill until your affections are set on fire again for Christ.
 - When cold, you look for warmth.
 - Don't look elsewhere. Stay in God.
- What causes you to doubt God's love?
 - Everytime take that lie and throw that lie to hell.
 - Keep crucifying it.
 - Keep yourself in the love of God.

John 14:21

Whoever has my commandments and keeps them, he it is who loves me. And he who loves me will be loved by my Father, and I will love him and manifest myself to him."

V. KEEP YOURSELVES IN THE LOVE OF GOD BY WELCOMING MERCY AT THE RETURN OF CHRIST.

- *"waiting for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ to eternal life."*

Lamentations 3:22-23

The steadfast love of the LORD never ceases; his mercies never come to an end; they are new every morning; great is your faithfulness.

Question of Reflection:

- Are you content with the mercies of God?
 - You have mercy and await mercy when Christ returns.
 - Keeping yourself in the love of God, you see mercy:
 - No condemnation for those in Christ.

Romans 8:1

There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus.

See: Life of Joseph

- Genesis 37-50
- The brothers sell Joseph to slavery. When they come before Joseph after he was elevated to leader of Egypt:

Genesis 45:4-5

So Joseph said to his brothers, "Come near to me, please." And they came near. And he said, "I am your brother, Joseph, whom you sold into Egypt. And now do not be distressed or angry with yourselves because you sold me here, for God sent me before you to preserve life.

Jude 1:24-25

"Now to Him who is able to keep you from stumbling, and to make you stand in the presence of His glory blameless with great joy, to the only God our Savior, through Jesus Christ our Lord, be glory, majesty, might and authority, before all time and now and forever. Amen."