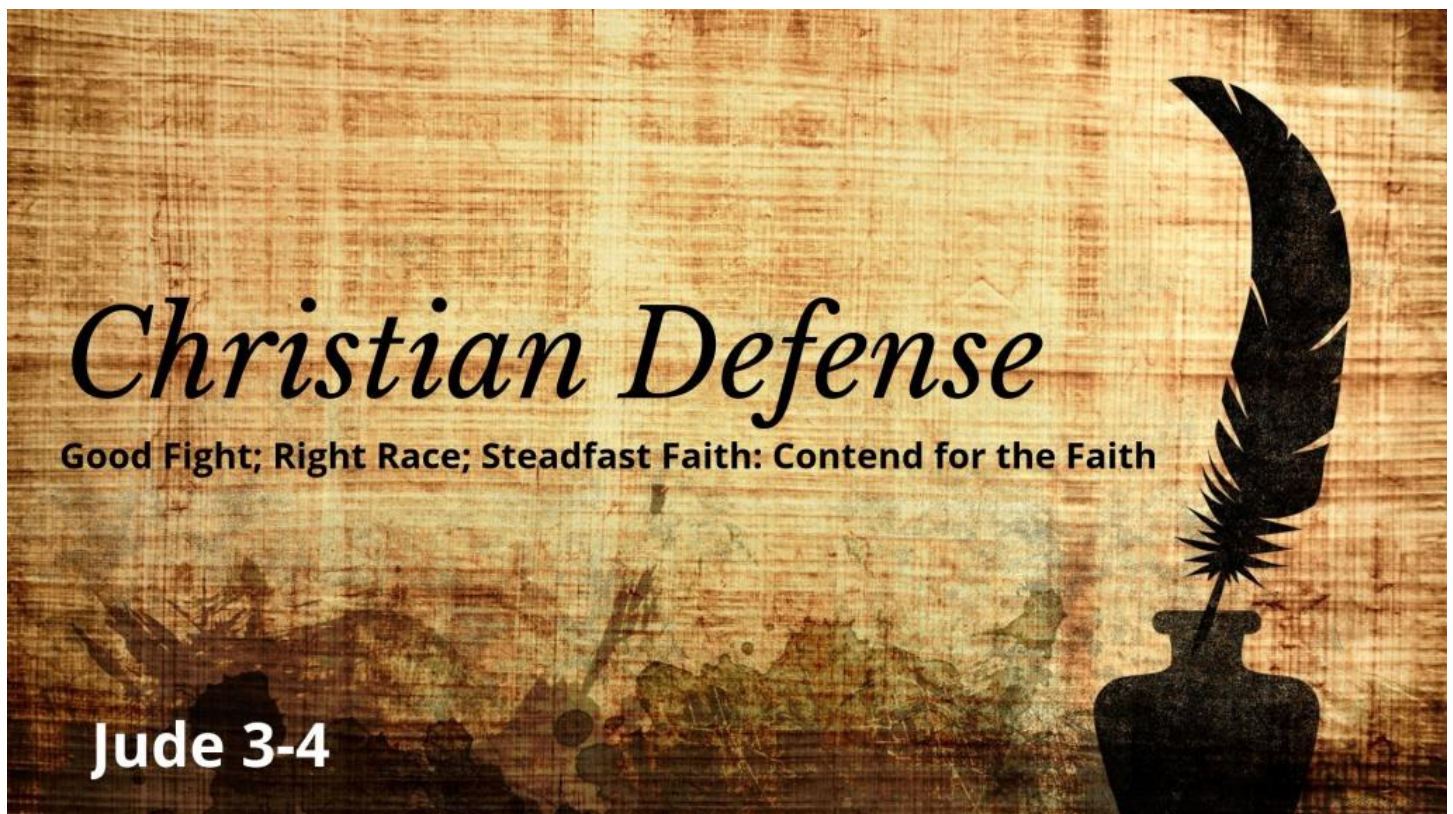


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Good Fight, Right Race, Steadfast Faith: Pressing on Toward the Goal / Faith; Contend / Jude 3–4

Christians must strive to protect this faith from ungodly people who attempt to pervert its grace into sensuality and deny the Lordship of Christ.



Jude 3–4 ESV

³ 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. ⁴ 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.

The Need for Contending:

Jeremiah 9:3 ESV

³ They bend their tongue like a bow;
falsehood and not truth has grown strong in the land;
for they proceed from evil to evil,
and they do not know me, declares the LORD.

Matthew 13:25 ESV

²⁵ but while his men were sleeping, his enemy came and sowed weeds among the wheat and went away.

Acts 15:24 ESV

²⁴ Since we have heard that some persons have gone out from us and troubled you with words, unsettling your minds, although we gave them no instructions,

Galatians 2:4 ESV

⁴ Yet because of false brothers secretly brought in—who slipped in to spy out our freedom that we have in Christ Jesus, so that they might bring us into slavery—

2 Timothy 3:6 ESV

⁶ For among them are those who creep into households and capture weak women, burdened with sins and led astray by various passions,

2 Peter 2:1 ESV

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.

The Cost of Contending:

Ephesians 4:14 ESV

¹⁴ so that we may no longer be children, tossed to and fro by the waves and carried about by every wind of doctrine, by human cunning, by craftiness in deceitful schemes.

1 Peter 4:18 ESV

¹⁸ And

“If the righteous is scarcely saved, what will become of the ungodly and the sinner?”

Titus 2:11–12 ESV

¹¹ For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation for all people, ¹² training us to renounce ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live self-controlled, upright, and godly lives in the present age,

Hebrews 12:15–16 ESV

¹⁵ See to it that no one fails to obtain the grace of God; that no “root of bitterness” springs up and causes trouble, and by it many become defiled; ¹⁶ that no one is sexually immoral or unholy like Esau, who sold his birthright for a single meal.

1 Peter 2:16 ESV

¹⁶ Live as people who are free, not using your freedom as a cover-up for evil, but living as servants of God.

2 Peter 2:18–22 ESV

¹⁸ For, speaking loud boasts of folly, they entice by sensual passions of the flesh those who are barely escaping from those who live in error. ¹⁹ They promise them freedom, but they themselves are slaves of corruption. For whatever overcomes a person, to that he is enslaved. ²⁰ For if, after they have escaped the defilements of the world through the knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, they are again entangled in them and overcome, the last state has become worse for them than the first. ²¹ For it would have been better for them never to have known the way of righteousness than after knowing it to turn back from the holy commandment delivered to them. ²² What the true proverb says has happened to them: “The dog returns to its own vomit, and the sow, after washing herself, returns to wallow in the mire.”

