

Hate the Sin, Love the Sinner

Read: Jude 1:17-23

Main idea: While it is true that God calls us to love our neighbors in spite of their sin, we must not minimize a person's responsibility and accountability for their sin apart from the work of the gospel in their lives.

Key Verses: "And have mercy on those who doubt; save others by snatching them out of the fire; to others show mercy with fear, hating even the garment stained by the flesh." (1:22-23 ESV)

Key Principles:

- You cannot hate the sin and love the sinner if you act like the sin in their lives is not a big deal.
- It is not loving to treat your neighbor as if their sin is not an offense to a holy God.
- The presence of false teachers who lead people astray has been predicted by scripture and should not be shocking to us.
- The best way to be on guard against false teachers is to study the truth of God's Word, pray consistently and long for the return of our Savior.
- The most loving thing we can do for other sinners is to consistently and urgently share the truth of the gospel with them so that they can respond with repentance & faith.
- The only hope of escaping the wrath of God for our sin is the power of the gospel of in our lives and that should fill us with fear for our unsaved neighbors (Romans 8:1).

Discussion:

1. What is true about the saying, "Hate the sin, love the sinner?" What is misleading about it? How do you think we misapply it?
2. How should we feel towards false teachers that lead believers and unbelievers away from God's truth? Is the gospel sufficient for their salvation as well? How should we approach them?
3. Why do you think studying God's Word, praying consistently and trusting the promises of God will help us to guard against false teaching?
4. How can we have mercy on those who doubt? What does it look like to deal patiently with them?
5. Why should we deal quickly with those who are unbelievers? Why do you think Jude uses the imagery of "snatching them out of the fire?"
6. What does it mean to "show mercy with fear?" Can you love the sinner if you don't share the truth of God's Word with them?

Prayer:

- Pray that we would love others too much to keep God's truth from them.
- Pray:
 - That we would be on guard against the false teaching and worldviews around us.
 - That we would consistently study God's word and pray without ceasing.
 - That we would have a sense of urgency towards evangelism and missions.

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Jude 1:17-23

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| I. | Remember the <u>words</u> of our <u>Lord</u>. | 1:17-19 |
| 1. | The <u>presence</u> of false teachers is <u>certain</u> . | 1:17-18 |
| 2. | The <u>portrait</u> of false teachers is <u>clear</u> . | 1:18-19 |
| II. | Remain in the <u>watchcare</u> of God's <u>Love</u>. | 1:20-21 |
| 1. | <u>Grow</u> in the <u>Scriptures</u> . | 1:20 |
| 2. | <u>Pray</u> in the <u>Spirit</u> . | 1:20 |
| 3. | <u>Watch</u> for the <u>Savior</u> . | 1:21 |
| III. | Rescue the <u>wandering</u> who are <u>lost</u>. | 1:22-23 |
| 1. | Deal <u>gently</u> with those who <u>doubt</u> . | 1:22 |
| 2. | Deal <u>quickly</u> with those who are in <u>danger</u> . | 1:22 |
| 3. | Deal <u>carefully</u> with those who are <u>defiled</u> . | 1:23 |

NEXT WEEK:
Cleanliness is Next to Godliness
Psalm 24