

## Don't Buy The Fake News

There is a way that appears to be right, but in the end it leads to death.

Proverbs 14:12 (NIV)

### How to deal with Fake News about a Real Faith

Jude = The brother of Jesus Audience = Believers in Christ

This letter is from Jude, a slave of Jesus Christ and a brother of James. I am writing to all who have been called by God the Father, who loves you and keeps you safe in the care of Jesus Christ. May God give you more and more mercy, peace, and love. Dear friends, I had been eagerly planning to write to you about the salvation we all share. But now I find that I must write about something else, urging you to defend (contend) the faith that God has entrusted once for all time to His Holy People. I say this because some ungodly people have wormed their way into your churches, saying that God's marvelous grace allows us to live immoral lives. The condemnation of such people was recorded long ago, for they have denied our only Master and Lord, Jesus Christ. Jude 1:1-4 (NLT)

# 1. I must <u>KNOW</u> the TRUTH, <u>LIVE</u> by the TRUTH, and <u>SPEAK UP</u> for the TRUTH.

Our faith has been given "once" - "for all time" - to "His Holy People"...(v. 3)

Jesus told him, "I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one can come to the Father except through me." John 14:6 (NLT)

Jesus said to the people who believed in Him, "You are truly my disciples if you remain faithful to my teachings. And you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free." John 8:31-32 (NLT)

#### 2. Not all <u>SPIRITUAL TEACHERS</u> are telling the TRUTH.

I say this because some ungodly people have wormed their way into your churches, saying that God's marvelous grace allows us to live immoral lives... (v. 4)

Beware of false prophets who come disguised as harmless sheep but are really vicious wolves. You can identify them by their fruit, that is, by the way they act... Matthew 7:15-16 (NLT)

If someone claims, "I know God," but doesn't obey God's commandments, that person is a liar and is not living in the truth. 1 John 2:4 (NLT)

- Check "the life" of the Author.
- Check "the source" of the Author.
- Check "the fruit" of the Author.

### 3. I must live with a MADE up MIND.

"So fear the Lord and serve Him wholeheartedly... choose today whom you will serve. Would you prefer the gods your ancestors served beyond the Euphrates? Or will it be the gods of the Amorites in whose land you now live? But as for me and my family, we will serve the Lord." Joshua 24:14-15 (NLT)

Going deeper on your own. Read the book of Jude five times in a row. What is Jude concerned about and why? Now read Luke 6:43-44. What does Jesus say about those who create fake news about faith? What does this say about how they will be recognized? Read 2 Peter 2. In this passage, God reveals the true fruit of a false teacher. Notice it focuses on three main issues, pride, sensuality, and greed, or more readily, power, sex, and money. How do false teachers use these in their work (2 Peter 2:18)? Read Jude 1:1-4. What are we to do as His followers? What can we count on as we live for Christ and stand for our faith (Jude 1:24-25)?