

# Denying the Master



Jude 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.

Jude 3–4 LSB

# The Master and His Delegates

- The English word “authority” means “the power or right to give orders, make decisions, and enforce obedience,” which translates well the Greek term (“exousia”; John 19:10–11).
- God is the authority of authorities, but he delegates power to various persons/groups (e.g., apostles, elders, husbands, parents, government; Eph 4:6; Matt 28:18; Rom 13:1).
- God communicates his authority (and what he authorizes) through Scripture (2 Tim 3:16–17; 1 Cor 14:37; cf. John 1:12; 20:30–31; CENI/TSI = 8:29b; 12:49–50 (C); 5:19–20 (E), 30 (NI)).

# Rejecting Authority

- Rebellion is rarely, if ever, just a dismissal of CENI; it is the product of an unruly attitude that displays itself in its works (e.g., licentiousness, legalism; Titus 1:16; Jude 4; Matt 15:3).
- People often deny the Master (or his word) because they long to satisfy their lust, greed, or pride (2 Pet 2:1–3, 10b–19; Jude 4; 3 John 9–10; Gal 2:4; 2 Tim 3:1–9).
- Asking honest questions is not rebellious, but mocking God and distancing oneself from the faithful are clear signs of a wayward spirit (2 Pet 3:1–7; cf. vv. 14–16; 1 John 2:18–19).



# Bow the Knee to Christ!

- How do we ensure that we will not deny the Master? How do we bow the knee to Jesus Christ? First, we must KNOW GOD (2 Pet 1:2–4; Jude 17–21; cf. vv. 22–23).
- Second, we must LEARN REVERENCE by reading Scripture, disciplining ourselves, prioritizing (daily) worship, and suffering in a Christ-like way (1 Tim 4:6–8; Heb 5:8; cf. v. 7)
- Third, we must SUBMIT to (i.e., OBEY) what God has commanded even when we would rather not (Luke 6:46; John 14:15; cf. Phil 2:12–13; Matt 7:21–23; Luke 22:41–43).

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