

CONTENDING FOR THE FAITH
THE BOOK OF JUDE
“JUDE, THE SERVANT OF JESUS CHRIST” (VS 1a)

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INTRODUCTION

The author of the Book of Jude is generally accepted as being **Jude**, the brother of James and the half-brother of Jesus Christ Himself.

Matthew 13:55 and **Mark 6:3** both record where **the folks in Jesus’ hometown were astonished at how Jesus was teaching and didn’t understand Who He was or acknowledge Him for Who He was in reality! Both references refer to Jesus’ mother and his half siblings.**

Matthew 13:55 Is not this the carpenter's son? is not his mother called Mary? and his brethren, James, and Joses, and Simon, and Judas?

Mark 6:3 Is not this the carpenter, the son of Mary, the brother of James, and Joses, and of Juda, and Simon? and are not his sisters here with us? And they were offended at him.

The Book of Jude was slow in being accepted into the Canon as Scripture. In fact, it was not fully accepted by the Church until about A.D. 350. What probably led to Jude’s slow acceptance was the fact that Jude quoted from some of the apocryphal books (*See Jude 9, 14-15*).

The apocryphal books are those books that were written between the Old Testament and the New Testament, but that have never been counted as Scripture except by the Roman Catholic Church. The Book of Jude eventually proved itself as Scripture and was fully accepted by the Churches.

I. THERE WAS A CHANGE IN JUDE’S PERCEPTION OF JESUS—FROM JUST A HALF-BROTHER TO THE MESSIAH!

A. None Of Jesus’ Half-Brothers Or Half-Sisters Believed On Him Until After The Resurrection!

[John 7:5 {unbelief}; Acts 1:14 {in the upper room}]
John 7:5 For neither did his brethren believe in him.

Acts 1:14 These all continued with one accord in prayer and supplication, with the women, and Mary the mother of Jesus, and with his brethren.

B. Jude Refers To Himself As “The Servant Of Jesus Christ.”
The word “**Christ**” in the New Testament is equivalent to the term “**Messiah**” of the Old Testament.

Strong’s Concordance gives us the meaning of the O.T. name “**Messiah**” – “**anointed; usually a consecrated person (as a king, priest, or saint); specifically the Messiah.**”

(Messiah is the term used by the Daniel to refer to the coming Messiah he mentioned in his prophecies in Daniel 9:25-26)

Strong’s Concordance also gives us the definition of the N.T. name “**Christ**”– “**anointed, that is, the Messiah, a descriptive word used of Jesus.**”

At the time of the writing of this book, **Jude had come to believe that his half-brother, Jesus, was the Messiah, the Anointed One of God!**

He had also come to believe that his half-brother, Jesus, was the Son of God who came into the world to save mankind!

He had come to believe that his half-brother, Jesus, could save him personally from sin, death, and judgment!

He had come to believe that his half-brother, Jesus, could make him acceptable to God!

That was an enormous turnaround! And it is a great testimony to the resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ!

THERE WAS A CHANGE IN JUDE’S PERCEPTION OF JESUS—FROM A HALF-BROTHER TO THE MESSIAH!

II. **THERE WAS A CHANGE IN JUDE’S ACTION TOWARD HIS HALF-BROTHER—FROM AN UNBELIEVER TO A SERVANT!**

The word “*servant*” here literally means a “*bond-slave!*”

The word “*servant*” (Greek-- “*doulos*”) means far more than just a servant. A look at the slave market of the time in which Jude lived shows more clearly what He meant when he said he was a “*servant* [or *bond-slave*] of *Jesus Christ*.”

A. **The Slave Was Owned (Totally Possessed) By His Master!**

That is what Jude meant. **Jude was both purchased and possessed by Christ.**

Christ had looked upon Jude [as he did upon each one of us!] Christ had seen all of our degraded and sinful condition! In response, Christ loved Him [and us] and bought him [and us] with His own precious blood on the cross of Calvary!

Therefore, **Jude was the possession of Christ** just as every person that Christ has saved is the possession of Christ!

We who are in Christ have been purchased from the cruel master of sin to become servants of righteousness!

1 Corinthians 6:19-20 “...ye are not your own? 20 For ye are bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God's.

B. **The Slave Existed Only For His Master!**

A slave had no other reason for existence. He had no personal rights whatsoever. The same was true with Jude! He existed only for Christ. His rights were only the rights granted to him by Christ alone!

C. **The Slave Served His Master!**

A slave existed only for the purpose of service at the master’s beck and call. He was at the master’s disposal any hour of the day.

So it was with Jude: **He lived only to serve Christ—hour by hour and day by day!**

D. **The Slave’s Will Belonged To His Master!**

He was allowed no will and no ambition other than the will and ambition of the master.

He was completely subservient to the master and owed total obedience to the will of the master. Jude belonged to Christ!

E. **The Title “*Servant Of Jesus Christ*” Meant That He Had The Highest And Most Honored And Kingly Profession In All The World That Is Available To Men!**

The greatest men and women of God, have always been called His servants!

It is the highest title of honor that we can possess! Please understand that the believer’s slavery to Jesus Christ is not a cringing, cowardly, shameful subjection.

It is a position of honor—honor that bestows upon a man both the responsibilities and privileges of serving the **King of kings and Lord of lords.**

1. **Scripture Says That Moses Was The Servant Of The LORD!**

The LORD came to Moses and told him to go to Pharaoh and lead God’s people out of bondage! He obeyed the LORD in doing exactly that! *Deuteronomy 34:5—“So Moses **the servant of the LORD** died there in the land of Moab, according to the word of the LORD.”*

*Malachi 4:4—“Remember ye the law of **Moses my servant**, which I commanded unto him in Horeb for all Israel, with the statutes and judgments.”*

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2. **Scripture Says That Joshua Was The Servant Of The LORD!** Remember the LORD’s instructions of what they were to do at Jericho? Joshua carried out those instructions precisely as the LORD had given them to him because that is what a servant does!
Joshua 24:15 “...but as for me and my house, we will serve the LORD.”

Joshua 24:29–“And it came to pass after these things, that Joshua the son of Nun, the servant of the LORD, died, being an hundred and ten years old.”

In *Judges 2:8*, Joshua is referred to as *“the servant of the LORD”* again!

3. **Scripture Says That David Was The Servant Of the LORD!**
2 Samuel 3:18–“... for the LORD hath spoken of David, saying, By the hand of my servant David I will save my people Israel out of the hand of the Philistines, and out of the hand of all their enemies.”
- Psalms 78:70–“He chose David also his servant, and took him from the sheepfolds:”*

4. **Scripture Says That The Prophets Were The Servants Of The LORD!**
Amos 3:7– “Surely the Lord GOD will do nothing, but he revealeth his secret unto his servants the prophets.”
- Jeremiah 7:25–“Since the day that your fathers came forth out of the land of Egypt unto this day I have even sent unto you all my servants the prophets...”*

5. **The Apostle Paul Referred To Himself As A Servant Of Jesus Christ And A Servant Of God!**

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Romans 1:1–“Paul, a servant of Jesus Christ, called to be an apostle, separated unto the gospel of God,”

Titus 1:1–“Paul, a servant of God, and an apostle of Jesus Christ, ...”

(2 Corinthians 6:4-10; 11:23-30)

“ministers” – means *“an attendant, that is, (generally) a waiter (at table or in other menial duties); specifically a Christian teacher and pastor (technically a deacon or deaconess):—translated as deacon, minister, servant.”*

6. **The Apostle Paul Referred To Both Himself And Timothy As The Servants Of Jesus Christ!**
Philippians 1:1–“Paul and Timotheus, the servants of Jesus Christ...”
7. **The Apostle Peter Was The Servant Of Jesus Christ!**
2 Peter 1:1–“Simon Peter, a servant and an apostle of Jesus Christ, to them that have obtained like precious faith with us through the righteousness of God and our Saviour Jesus Christ:”
8. **James Referred To Himself As A Servant Of God And Of The Lord Jesus Christ!**
James 1:1–“James, a servant of God and of the Lord Jesus Christ, to the twelve tribes which are scattered abroad, greeting.”
- James, by the way, was another half-brother of Jesus!
9. **Jude Refers To Himself As The Servant Of Jesus Christ! (Jude 1a)**

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III. NOTE WHAT OUR POSITION SHOULD BE IN CHRIST!

Christian believers are said to be the servants of Jesus Christ

Acts 2:18 And on my servants and on my handmaidens I will pour out in those days of my Spirit; and they shall prophesy:

(Quoting *Joel 2:29*)

1 Corinthians 7:22 For he that is called in the Lord, being a servant, is the Lord's freeman: likewise also he that is called, being free, is Christ's servant.

Ephesians 6:6 Not with eyeservice, as menpleasers; but as the servants of Christ, doing the will of God from the heart;

Colossians 4:12 Epaphras, who is one of you, a servant of Christ, saluteth you, always labouring fervently for you in prayers, that ye may stand perfect and complete in all the will of God.

2 Timothy 2:24 And the servant of the Lord must not strive; but be gentle unto all men, apt to teach, patient,

A. We Should Be Following Christ Closely!

So we can know His bidding and do His will!

John 12:26—“If any man serve me, let him follow me; and where I am, there shall also my servant be: if any man serve me, him will my Father honour”

“serve”— means “to be an attendant, that is, wait upon; technically to act as a Christian deacon.”

B. We Should Be Presenting Ourselves Willingly To God For Service!

Romans 12:1—“I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service.”

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1. We Are To Give Up Our Rights For His Will!

2. We Are To Give Up Our Sin For His Service!

3. We Are To Give Up Whatever We Need To For His Glory!

C. We Should Be Stedfast In The Work Of The Lord!
(*1 Corinthians 15:58*)

“Stedfast” means “to be in a settled position.”

Many are stedfast, but in the wrong areas.

D. We Should Be Unmovable In The Work Of The Lord!
(*1 Corinthians 15:58*)

“Unmovable” means “to be immovable!”

Many are unmovable, but in the wrong place to begin with!

E. We Should Be Always Abounding In The Work Of The Lord! (*1 Corinthians 15:58*)

F. We Should Do The Will Of God From Our Hearts!

Ephesians 6:6—“Not with eyeservice, as menpleasers; but as the servants of Christ, doing the will of God from the heart;”

(Not because the preacher said so or mama and daddy said so.)
Colossians 3:23-24—“And whatsoever ye do, do it heartily, as to the Lord, and not unto men; knowing that of the Lord ye shall receive the reward of the inheritance: for ye serve the Lord Christ.”

Deuteronomy 10:12—“What doth the Lord thy God require of thee, but to fear the Lord thy God, to walk in all his ways, and to love him, and to serve the Lord thy God with all thy heart and with all thy soul!”

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G. We Should Do It Acceptably With Reverence And Godly Fear!

*Hebrews 12:28–“Wherefore we receiving a kingdom which cannot be moved, let us have grace, whereby we may **serve God acceptably with reverence and godly fear.**”*

*“**acceptably**” – means “**quite agreeably**”*

*“**reverence**” – means “**awe**”*

Psalm 2:11– “Serve the Lord with fear, and rejoice with trembling”

H. We Should Do It With Gladness And Singing (Joy)!

Psalm 100:2–“Serve the Lord with gladness: come before his presence with singing”

Philippians 4:4–“Rejoice in the Lord always: and again I say, Rejoice.”

CONCLUSION

Jude, the Lord’s half-brother, humbled himself to see Jesus in His rightful position. Should we not do the same?

We need to examine ourselves and answer the question who are we really serving? Every one of us serves someone or something! It may be the Saviour, or it may be Satan, Self, Someone Else or even Something Else!

Put Jesus in His rightful position where He belongs–He is either Lord of all or He is not Lord at all in your life.

Luke 6:46–“And why call ye me, Lord, Lord, and do not the things which I say?”

Luke 17:7-10