

“Defending and Contending”

Jude 3

Introduction

- I. Each Christian should be both a defender of, and a contender for, truth (John 17:17; Phil. 1:16-17; Jude 3)
- II. There will be times when we will encounter the truth being challenged (cf. Acts 13:7-11).
- III. Are we ready to defend and contend?

Discussion

- I. Why do we need to defend and contend?
 - A. There are enemies of the truth (Matt. 7:15; Phil. 3:18-19; 1 John 4:1).
 - B. Not all love the truth (2 Thess. 2:7-12; cf. Isa.30:8-11; Eph. 4:14-15).
- II. What does it mean to defend and contend?
 - A. Defend-be ready to take attacks without being defeated; an apology or plea (Phil. 1:16-17; 1 Pet. 3:15).
 - B. Contend-actively engaged in the fight (Jude 3; 2 Tim. 4:7; 1 Tim. 6:12; 2 Tim. 2:3; 1 Tim. 1:18-20; Eph. 6:10-20).
- III. Examples of defending and contending.
 - A. Against Judaizing teachers (Gal. 3:1; 5:1-9).
 - B. Against Gnostics (1 John 1:1-4; 2:21-22).
 - C. Against false eschatology (2 Pet. 3:3-13).
 - D. Against Christ's Deity (John 1:1-3; 1 Tim. 1:17; 3:16; Heb. 1:8).
- IV. How to be effective in defending and contending.
 - A. Have a knowledge and love of God's Word (2 Tim. 3:15).
 - B. Have courage (Eph. 6:19-20).
 - C. Patience (1 Cor. 15:58).

Conclusion

- I. God wants us to be defenders of, and contenders for, the truth.
- II. Where do find ourselves in relation to those expectations?