

Transforming Daily
“... crept in unnoticed ...”
Jude 4.

Unfortunately, most believers who have been a part of church life have experienced at least one “church split.” Many believers have experienced multiple church splits, and worse, some believers have even experienced the death of a church. There are various reasons why conditions like these prevail, and the reasons range in responsibility from the pulpit to the pew. Sometimes splits are due to misunderstandings or territorial disputes. In other cases, factions and disruptions are due to family heritage, but sometimes a split or dissension occurs over doctrinal reasons.

A man just told me the other day that he was leaving his church because a small group in the church ran the pastor off. This occurs quite frequently (and it is very dangerous). The Bible gives instructions on how and why an elder (bishop) should be dealt with. A word to the wise, tread very carefully in this area, and I’m not just saying that because I’m a pastor. If there is evidence that a pastor has violated Scripture, than he should be cautiously approached, but if it is a matter of differing of opinions or stylistic tendencies between the leadership and the church, or just a handful of people in the church against the pastor’s approach to leadership, don’t get involved, and do your best to support the pastoral leadership.

Though this kind of behavior is unfortunately common in the church, it is not what Jude is referring to in this verse. Jude is referring to a person or a group of people who deliberately enter into the church to undermine doctrinal teachings of Scripture, and in particular, the truth of the gospel, to the point of discord and destruction of that church. One of the jobs of the pastor (the “under-shepherd”) is to watch out for these kinds of people and their teachings, and to expose their heresies before the church. It is also the responsibility of every believer to be on the lookout for this kind of behavior. Part of the trouble is one must know the truth of God before they can expose any false teaching of man. Therefore, the believer, you and I, must be diligent, deliberate, and dedicated students of God’s Word, fervent prayer warriors, and selfless servants.

Are you a serious student of God’s Word? When was the last time you specifically prayed for the pastoral leadership of your church? Do you willingly and humbly serve in the ministries of your church? Are you one of those people who go to church to be heard and seen rather than to hear, “thus says the Lord,” and serve according to His Word?

From time to time, all of us, from the pulpit to the pew, might disagree with each other, taking issue with styles and types of ministry programs. Life’s too short. Godly leaders, you respect Christ’s disciples, Christ’s disciples, you respect godly leaders, and church, you love one another as Christ loved the church and gave Himself for it. Because if you don’t, it might just be that while you are at each others’ throats over issues like the color of carpets, chairs rather than pews, choruses rather than hymns, etc., ungodly men of heretical doctrine will have crept in unnoticed.