

## They Claim to Speak for God

“. . . ungodly men, turning the grace of our God into lasciviousness, and denying the only Lord God, and our lord Jesus Christ.” (Jude 4c)

It is hard for a pluralistic culture (the culture in which we live) to come to grips with the teachings of Scripture. Therefore, when we speak of false teaching and false prophets we are often judged wrongfully. The Scripture, however, speaks often of those who are false, and teach a false message – which leaves people with a false security.

Jude, without question, speaks boldly against apostates of his day. Jude refers to them as “ungodly men.” They claim to belong to God and speak for God; however, their hearts were far from God.

They were devoid of God in their character. And being devoid of God in character, they had no reverence (fear) for God. The early church fathers referred to them as heretics. They only play at religion, while possessing no genuine fear or love of God. They claim to know and speak truth, but their sinful character undermines their claim.

The apostates of Jude’s day perverted God’s grace and changed it into lasciviousness. In other words, they had turned the grace of God into something sinful. Jude uses the word “lasciviousness” which means something lewd, or indecent. By perverting the biblical concept of grace (they did this by giving the people a license to sin), they showed by their conduct their unregenerate state.

Apostate false teachers view themselves as superior to other people, and when they have established themselves in the minds of the people, they feel no threat in “denying the only Lord God, and our Lord Jesus Christ.” Paul warned Titus of unruly and vain talkers such as apostates, “They profess that they know God; but in works they deny him, being abominable, and disobedient, and unto every good work reprobate” (Titus 1:16).

To further your understanding read Titus 1:9-16.

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