

Vintage Community Discussion Guide | June 15th, 2025

[Jude Part 2: The Gospel of Grace and Obedience](#) - Pastor Ger Jones

Read: Jude

Consider:

Grace: God's Transforming Love

At its heart, the Gospel is about God's grace. Jude reminds us that we are "called, loved in God the Father and kept for Jesus Christ". The Greek term for grace, *charis* (χάρις), signifies God's unmerited favor and is an "active, working principle" that manifests in good deeds. This means our secure standing with God comes from Him, not from anything we do. Grace isn't just about being forgiven; it's an active power from God that changes us from the inside out, leading us to do good things. Our ability to do good works pleasing to God comes only through the grace of God by Christ preventing us, that we may have a good will, and working with us, when we have that good will. This means God's grace is essential for us to even want to do good and to actually do good works. When true grace is at work, it naturally leads to a transformed life. The false teachers in Jude were dangerous because they thought grace meant they could ignore God's commands and live sinfully. This twisting of grace into an excuse for "sensuality" (Greek: *aselgeia* - ἀσέλγεια), which means a brazen disregard for moral boundaries, is a serious error. The absence of good actions or the presence of such "sensuality" shows a misunderstanding of true grace.

Obedience: Our Joyful Response to Grace

Pastor Ger highlighted that genuine grace always leads to obedience. This isn't about earning our salvation, but about living out of a heart changed by God's love. Jesus Himself said, "If you really love me, you'll obey my teachings" (John 14:15). Our daily lives are the clearest sign of what we truly believe. Jude encourages us to "keep yourselves in God's love" [21] by building up our faith and praying in the Holy Spirit [20]. This shows a wonderful balance: God's power "keeps" us secure, and because of that, we are empowered to "keep ourselves" in His love through our actions. Theologian John Stott, reminds us, believers are "determined by his grace to obey Christ's commission". Obedience becomes a joyful response to our loving King, not a burden. It's about trusting that His way is always best for us, even when it's challenging.

Old Testament Warnings: Lessons from History

Jude uses powerful stories from the Old Testament to show the serious consequences of rejecting God's authority and twisting His grace. These examples serve as clear warnings for us today:

- The Exodus Generation: Even after God miraculously saved the Israelites from Egypt, those who didn't believe and obey perished in the wilderness (Numbers 14). This reminds us that being saved doesn't mean we can stop trusting and obeying God.
- Fallen Angels: Angels who rebelled against God's authority (referencing Genesis 6 and other ancient Jewish writings like 1 Enoch) are now held in chains, awaiting judgment. This shows the severe consequences of defying God's established order.
- Sodom and Gomorrah: These cities were destroyed by "eternal fire" because of their widespread immorality (Genesis 19). This is a strong warning against living in moral depravity and ignoring God's moral laws.

Jude also compares the false teachers to figures like Cain (Genesis 4), Balaam (Numbers 22-24), and Korah (Numbers 16). These examples show that living "your own way," even if you claim to have grace, leads to destruction and harms others. God's moral law is still binding for Christians, meaning that God's character and His opposition to ungodliness remain constant throughout history.

Discussion Questions:

1. Pastor Ger emphasized that true grace leads to obedience. How does this understanding challenge any ideas you might have had about grace being a "license to sin"?
2. Jude warns against those who "pervert the grace of our God into sensuality". What are some ways a Christian might be tempted to twist God's grace to justify their own desires today?
3. Jude uses Old Testament stories like Israel in the wilderness and Sodom and Gomorrah to show the consequences of rebellion. What do these historical warnings teach us about God's character and the importance of living faithfully?
4. Jude tells us to "keep yourselves in God's love". What practical steps can you take this week to actively live in God's love and obey His teachings, trusting in His power to help you?

Pray: Close your group time by praying for one another. You may want to pray as one group or break into smaller groups to pray. Either way is fine. As you pray, take time to:

1. **Listen** - what have you become aware of in this lesson and discussion time that God wants to talk to you about? Take time to sit quietly and listen to the Holy Spirit.
2. **Offer** - whatever has been shown to you, now is the time to surrender your fears, hopes, and questions to God.
3. **Receive** - as we surrender our fears, hopes, and questions to God, He promises to give us His grace, forgiveness, and peace because of His unfailing love for us.

Spiritual Practice: Grace-Empowered Reflection and Prayer.

This week, take time to reflect on one of the Old Testament warnings from Jude (e.g., the Israelites' unbelief, or Sodom's immorality). Consider how God's justice is revealed in that story. Then, spend time meditating on Jude 1:20-21: "But you, beloved, building yourselves up on your most holy faith, praying in the Holy Spirit, keep yourselves in the love of God, waiting for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ that leads to eternal life." Conclude by praying for God's grace to empower you to live obediently, resisting any temptation to misuse His grace, and for wisdom to discern truth from error in your own life and community.