

or other means. You cannot, however, fail to contend for the faith in any form and claim to be following God's Word.

Many today are like the antis of years gone by. Concerning caring for orphans, they are not doing it and they are not sure how it is to be done. However, they are sure that the way you are doing it is wrong! It is not uncommon for brethren today who are not contending for the faith to condemn the methods of those who are. Also, today when men try to follow the Bible and contend for the faith against false teachers, they may face one of the following. Someone may say that you just have an axe to grind. Or perhaps someone will accuse you of misrepresenting the false teachers. Still others may say "We have heard him preach before and we did not hear any false doctrine." Still others may say, "You say he is off on marriage, divorce, and remarriage; we will ask him not to speak on that." Some may even accuse you of judging when you try to obey the Bible and contend for the faith.

Are we commanded to contend for the faith? Yes! But like so many other commands, many are willing to do only the ones they choose. How sad that many of these brethren refuse to contend for the

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### God's Plan of Salvation

- **Hear** the Gospel of Christ - Romans 10:14; Romans 10:17
- **Believe** that Jesus Christ is the Son of God - Mark 16:16; John 8:24
- **Repent** of our sins - Luke 13:3; Acts 2:38
- **Confess** Christ before men - Matthew 10:32, 33; Romans 10:10
- **Be Immersed** (Baptized) into Christ - Galatians 3:27; I Peter 3:21; Acts 22:16
- **Live Faithfully** for Christ - Revelation 2:10; 2 Peter 1:10; 2 Peter 3:18

**If you are not following God's plan,  
please obey it today**

## **Are We Commanded to Contend For the Faith?**



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To most Bible students Jude 3 comes to mind concerning contending for the faith. ***“Beloved, while I was very diligent to write to you concerning our common salvation, I found it necessary to write you exhorting you to contend earnestly for the faith which was once for all delivered to the saints.”***

Many in the church today choose not to do the things that are unpleasant. An example of this would be church discipline. ***“But we command you, brethren, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, what you withdraw from every brother who walks disorderly and not according to the tradition which he received from us.”*** (2 Thessalonians 3:6). What part of this verse concerning church discipline is obscure or difficult to understand? Could it be that it is not clear whether church discipline is commanded or not? Is authority the issue? That is to say, was this Paul’s opinion? No! It is to be done ***“in the name of*** (by the authority of) ***the Lord.”*** Could it possibly be that the Bible is not clear as to who should be withdrawn from? No! Paul said, ***“every brother who walks disorderly.”*** So then, the problem concerning the lack of church discipline is not that the Bible is unclear. It is that church discipline is an unpleasant thing for

many to deal with; thus, they refuse to do as God has said.

Contending for the faith falls into the same category. It is an unpleasant task; therefore, many refuse to do as God has said. Some feel that no one can contend for the faith without being contentious. They feel it is not Christ-like to argue or ever be negative about anything. Perhaps they should consult their Bibles more and read books on how to win friends and influence people less! Please take note of some of Paul’s admonitions: ***“Preach the word! Be ready in season and out of season. Convince, rebuke, exhort with all longsuffering and teaching”*** (2 Timothy 4:2). ***“Those who are sinning rebuke in the presence of all, that the rest also may fear”*** (1 Timothy 5:20). ***“Now I urge you, brethren, note those who cause divisions and offences contrary to the doctrine which you learn; and avoid them”*** (Romans 16:17). ***“And have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness, but rather expose them”*** (Ephesians 5:11).

Jesus is our example, and His life was filled with occasions when He would contend for truth with the religious leaders of His day. The apostles also on many occasions did the same. Consider

their conflicts with the Judaizing teachers in Acts 15:1-5 and Galatians 2:3-5. Paul even withstood Peter when he was wrong. ***“Now when Peter was come to Antioch, I withstood him to his***



***face, because he was to be blamed”***  
(Galatians 2:11).

Many do not seem to be aware that we are in a war (Ephesians 6:11-20; 1 Timothy 1:18; 2 Timothy 2:3-4). They act as if they were running for public office and insist on offending no one under any circumstance. These pious pretenders are actually in violation of God’s Word by refusing to contend for the faith. Much error is being taught today from those claiming to be members of the body of Christ. You may choose how you will fight this battle. For example, you may contend publicly by articles, radio, classes, lectureships, books, brotherhood papers,