



What Is the One Faith Jude Exhorted Us to Contend For?

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Jude, servant of our Messiah, wrote a pithy (*Precisely meaningful; forceful and brief*) letter that is retained in our Scriptures.



*Beloved, when I gave all diligence to write unto you of the common salvation, it was needful for me to write unto you, and **exhort you that ye should earnestly contend for the faith which was once delivered** unto the saints.*

Jude 1:3

Not “a” faith, but “**the**” faith, singular, not plural. “Once delivered,” whole and complete, good, *tov*; not modified or changed through the years. I was challenged by this exhortation. How far back does one have to go in order to know clearly what the “one faith once delivered” is? I have developed a timeline analyzing this question on our Set Apart Ministries website, “*Where is the faith delivered once for all to the saints?*”

According to the *Pew Forum on Christian Life* from a 2010 poll, 32% of people in the world consider themselves Christians. Adjusting for population growth, that percentage has remained nearly constant. (Consider how many times the prophets refer to “one third” of a population.) According to the Center for the Study of Global Christianity (CSGC) at Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary, there are approximately 41,000 Christian denominations and organizations in the world.¹ Exact numbers are difficult because they can be categorized differently. All profess the Bible to be the Word of God that they follow.

How is this the “one faith” Jude identified? Faith and practice go hand in hand, what the Scriptures call “the way we walk.” Surely it is true that there must be regional variation to some extent as each group and their leaders may interpret Scriptures somewhat differently. Without that flexibility, expression of

¹ <http://christianity.about.com/od/denominations/p/christiantoday.htm> and <http://www.pewforum.org/2011/12/19/global-christianity-exec/> Accessed 8/7/13.

faith would become a lock-step uniformity rather than a unity of the Spirit. Uniformity can usually only be maintained with authoritarian rather than authoritative leadership. (**Authoritarian:** *of, relating to, or favoring blind submission to authority and/or of, relating to, or favoring a concentration of power in a leader or an elite not constitutionally responsible to the people.*² **Authoritative:** *having or proceeding from authority and/or clearly accurate or knowledgeable*³)

Messiah Yeshua spoke as One having authority. (Matthew 7:29) He never coerced or chased anyone, begging them to follow Him but offered the invitation. He simply stood in His authority, given to Him by the Father, and called those who had ears to hear; those who would **hear and obey**. He walked after the Way of His Father which was written in the Scriptures, called the Torah or “righteous teachings.” He did not behave in an authoritarian way but in an authoritative way. He not only told us to walk after Him, but showed us how and through His death and resurrection, made it possible for us. He called the lost sheep of the House of Israel and Gentiles, all to be grafted in by faith in Him.

One Lord, One Faith, One Baptism, One Stick, One Fold, One Shepherd.

(Ecc. 12: 11; Ez. 37: 19-22; Eph. 4:5, John 10:16)

Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me. If ye had known me, ye should have known my Father also: and from henceforth ye know him, and have seen him.

John 14:6-7

How did we get from following in His footsteps in “the way” to 41,000 different ways to walk?

There was a great divide. There were several great divides. Initially, only those who received the baptism of repentance through John were able to receive Messiah. The first divide was among the People of Israel: believing in Yeshua as THE Messiah or not. Many leaders knew Him but would not confess Him for fear of being put out of the body by men. (John 12:42-43) Messianic believers in the First Century honored the Word of God AND honored Yeshua as Messiah with no separation. There is historical record of this though even the government of Israel today tries to keep it hidden. The second divide was between Israel and Gentiles. Subsequent divides within both Israel and Gentiles followed.

We have confidence that Messiah Yeshua is the Son of the Living God, the God of Israel, because He fulfilled the words of the Prophets. **He did not change anything. Had He done so, He could not be our Messiah but would be characterized as a false prophet. (Deuteronomy 13)**

For the LORD is our judge, the LORD is our lawgiver, the LORD is our king; he will save us.
Isaiah 33:22

There is one lawgiver, who is able to save and to destroy: who art thou that judgest another?
James 4:12

² <http://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/authoritarian>

³ <http://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/authoritative?show=0&t=1375890133>

*For I give you good doctrine, forsake ye not my law.
Proverbs 4:2*

*Teach me thy way, O LORD; I will walk in thy truth: unite my heart to fear thy name.
Psalm 86:11*

*Ye shall not add unto the word which I command you, neither shall ye diminish ought from it,
that ye may keep the commandments of the LORD your God which I command you.
Deuteronomy 4:2*

*For I am the LORD, I change not; therefore ye sons of Jacob are not consumed.
Even from the days of your fathers ye are gone away from mine ordinances, and have not kept
them. Return unto me, and I will return unto you, saith the LORD of hosts.
Malachi 3:6-7*

*Jesus answered them, and said, My doctrine is not mine, but his that sent me.
John 7:16*

*Then answered Jesus and said unto them, Verily, verily, I say unto you, The Son can do
nothing of himself, but what he seeth the Father do: for what things soever he doeth, these also
doeth the Son likewise.
John 5:19*

*For I [Jesus] testify unto every man that heareth the words of the prophecy of this book, If any
man shall add unto these things, God shall add unto him the plagues that are written in this
book:
Revelation 22:18*

In 2009, a Barna Research Group poll concluded that Christianity is no longer America's "default faith."⁴
We have lost our way; The Way, The Truth and The Life of our Messiah Yeshua Who is our Commander
in Chief, the One Whom we are to love, obey and strive to become more like Him.

*...earnestly contend for the faith which was once delivered unto the saints.
Jude 1:3*

Thousands of people worldwide have accepted Jude's exhortation. They have examined their faith
practices and compared them to what Messiah actually **did**, not just what men say. They have seen the
things that were added in over the years. When they honestly did this, they changed their expression of
faith as I did. Some variations in interpretation remain which are consistent with unity rather than
uniformity, with authoritative rather than authoritarian teaching. They are **far** less than the *babel*
(confusion) of 41,000 denominations.

Will you accept Jude's exhortation?

⁴ <https://www.barna.org/barna-update/article/12-faithspirituality/15-christianity-is-no-longer-americans-default-faith#.UgJsqW0bi1w>