

Contending for the Faith



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The modern Gospel that is being preached in many places is giving many a distorted view of the real Jesus.

JESUS

DISTORTED



Contending for the Faith

The Bible tells us to contend for the Faith

Jud 1:3 Beloved, my whole concern was to write to you in regard to our common salvation. *[But] I found it necessary and was impelled to write you and urgently appeal to and exhort [you] to contend for the faith which was once for all handed down to the saints [the faith which is that sum of Christian belief which was delivered verbally to the holy people of God].*

Jud 1:4 For certain men have crept in stealthily *[gaining entrance secretly by a side door]. Their doom was predicted long ago, ungodly (impious, profane) persons who pervert the grace (the spiritual blessing and favor) of our God into lawlessness and wantonness and immorality, and disown and deny our sole Master and Lord, Jesus Christ (the Messiah, the Anointed One).*



JUDE:
Contend
for the
Faith

It matters what you believe!

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The Bible goes on to tell us that the word was made Flesh in the person of Jesus Christ.

Joh 1:1 (AMP) IN THE beginning [*before all time*] was the Word (*Christ*), and the Word was with God, and the Word was God Himself. [*Isa. 9:6.*]

Joh 1:2 He was present originally with God.

Joh 1:3 All things were made and came into existence through Him; and without Him was not even one thing made that has come into being.

Joh 1:14 (AMP) And the Word (Christ) became flesh (human, incarnate) and tabernacled (fixed His tent of flesh, lived awhile) among us; and we [*actually*] saw His glory (*His honor, His majesty*), such glory as an only begotten son receives from his father, full of grace (*favor, loving-kindness*) and truth. [*Isa. 40:5.*]

HONOR

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We study the written word of God so we can know & understand the living Word of God Jesus.

2Ti 2:15 (AMP) Study and be eager and do your utmost to present yourself to God approved (tested by trial), a workman who has no cause to be ashamed, correctly analyzing and accurately dividing [*rightly handling and skillfully teaching*] the Word of Truth.



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Jesus is the Living Word of the Father and we know the Father through Jesus.

Joh 14:8 (AMP) Philip said to Him, Lord, show us the Father [*cause us to see the Father--that is all we ask*]; then we shall be satisfied.

Joh 14:9 Jesus replied, *Have I been with all of you for so long a time, and do you not recognize and know Me yet, Philip? Anyone who has seen Me has seen the Father. How can you say then, Show us the Father?*

Joh 14:10 *Do you not believe that I am in the Father, and that the Father is in Me? What I am telling you I do not say on My own authority and of My own accord; but the Father Who lives continually in Me does the (His) works (His own miracles, deeds of power).*



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The problem we are experiencing today is the same problem in Jesus day when Jesus came to the Jewish people in his earthly ministry. Many had a distorted view of who God was through through religious distortions of the Word of God. So when God showed up in their midst they didn't recognize him.

Joh 1:10 He came into the world, and though the world was made through Him, the world did not recognize Him [*did not know Him*].

Joh 1:11 He came to that which belonged to Him [*to His own-- His domain, creation, things, world*], and they who were His own did not receive Him and did not welcome Him.




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**The First Distorted view of Jesus we are going to talk about is
The Motivational Jesus**

TURN THAT FROWN

UPSIDE-DOWN

A meme featuring a smiling Jesus figure with long dark hair and a beard, wearing a white robe and a red sash. He has a Sacred Heart emblem on his chest. He is pointing his right hand towards the viewer and giving a thumbs up with his left hand. The background is a grey stone wall. The text "TURN THAT FROWN" is written in large, white, bold, sans-serif font at the top. The text "UPSIDE-DOWN" is written in large, white, bold, sans-serif font at the bottom.

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Differences Between Motivational Speaking and Biblical Preaching (Excerpts from his article)



By [Dan Delzell](#), There are tremendous differences between "motivational speaking" and "biblical preaching." In America today, many churches offer one or the other. One approach leaves people "encouraged" in their emotions and in their "self-esteem." The other builds up Christians in the Gospel as the Holy Spirit applies the Scriptures to the hearts and minds of the hearers.

Motivational speakers tell a lot of stories and seek to sway through emotion and pop psychology. Biblical preachers tell some stories, but above all seek to have people influenced by the Holy Spirit through the Word of God. Motivational speakers may or may not throw in a few Bible verses to "salt" their main topic. Biblical preachers rely totally upon the Scriptures to "drive" the content and to feed God's sheep. The Bible is the basis of their message.

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Differences Between Motivational Speaking and Biblical Preaching



Motivational speakers seek to never speak of things which might offend anyone in attendance. Biblical preachers seek to proclaim God's Word with a loving heart as they rely upon the Holy Spirit to "comfort the afflicted and afflict the comfortable."

Amo 6:1 Woe to them *that are at ease in Zion....*

That is, to apply the message of forgiveness to those who are repentant....and to apply the weight of the Law toward anyone content to continue sinning. After all, if I am never offended by my own behavior, I am certainly not growing in Christ....and I am living in denial. Motivational speakers do not tend to think about the Law and the Gospel when presenting a message. Instead, they attempt to persuade people to change their behavior.

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Differences Between Motivational Speaking and Biblical Preaching



Motivational speaking tends to be man-centered and people-pleasing. Biblical preaching is Christ-centered and God-honoring. Motivational speaking is often aimed largely at unbelievers. Biblical preaching typically aims where St. Paul aimed in his epistles....that is, it aims mainly at believers.

2Ti 4:3 *For the time is coming when [people] will not tolerate (endure) sound and wholesome instruction, but, having ears itching [for something pleasing and gratifying], they will gather to themselves one teacher after another to a considerable number, chosen to satisfy their own liking and to foster the errors they hold,*

2Ti 4:4 *And will turn aside from hearing the truth and wander off into myths and man-made fictions.*

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While It is true that God is a God that encourages his people & his love should motivate us to obey his word. Life brings many discouragements from negative people, difficult situations, disappointments and hopes that have not materialized.

Psa 27:14 Wait on the LORD: be of good courage, and he shall strengthen thine heart: wait, I say, on the LORD.

Pro 24:16 For a righteous man falls seven times and rises again, but the wicked are overthrown by calamity.

Gal 6:9 And let us not be weary in well doing: for in due season we shall reap, if we faint not.

ENCOURAGEMENT

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The problem is the modern Motivational Jesus is a unbiblical version of Jesus that won't confront sin or preach anything that offends at the expense of truth.

Mat 15:11 Not that which goeth into the mouth defileth a man; but that which cometh out of the mouth, this defileth a man.

Mat 15:12 Then came his disciples, and said unto him, Knowest thou that the Pharisees were offended, after they heard this saying?

Mat 15:13 But he answered and said, Every plant, which my heavenly Father hath not planted, shall be rooted up.

Mat 15:14 Let them alone: they be blind leaders of the blind. And if the blind lead the blind, both shall fall into the ditch.



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Evidently Jesus didn't read the book how to win friends and influence people! Here he goes again!

Joh 8:42 Jesus said unto them, If God were your Father, ye would love me: for I proceeded forth and came from God; neither came I of myself, but he sent me.

Joh 8:43 Why do ye not understand my speech? *even because ye cannot hear my word.*

Joh 8:44 Ye are of your father the devil, and the lusts of your father ye will do. He was a murderer from the beginning, and abode not in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he speaketh a lie, he speaketh of his own: for he is a liar, and the father of it.

Joh 8:45 And because I tell you the truth, ye believe me not.

Jesus Confronts



the Jewish Religious Leaders

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The modern motivational Gospel is a watered down Gospel.

Exo 12:9 (AMP) Eat not of it raw nor sodden (boiled) at all with water, but roasted--its head, its legs, and its inner parts.

Exo 12:10 And ye shall let nothing of it remain until the morning; and that which remaineth of it until the morning ye shall burn with fire.



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The Gospel must not be watered down. It must be preached with Fire!

Exo 12:9 (AMP) Eat not of it raw nor sodden (boiled) at all with water, but roasted--its head, its legs, and its inner parts.

Exo 12:10 And ye shall let nothing of it remain until the morning; and that which remaineth of it until the morning ye shall burn with fire.



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The Bible says if we won't warn the wicked man of sin his blood will be on our hands.

Eze 33:6 But if the watchman sees the sword coming and does not blow the trumpet to warn the people and the sword comes and takes the life of one of them, that man will be taken away because of his sin, but I will hold the watchman accountable for his blood.'

Eze 33:7 Son of man, I have made you a watchman for the house of Israel; so hear the word I speak and give them warning from me.



Eze 33:8 When I say to the wicked, 'O wicked man, you will surely die,' and you do not speak out to dissuade him from his ways, that wicked man will die for his sin, and I will hold you accountable for his blood.

Eze 33:9 But if you do warn the wicked man to turn from his ways and he does not do so, he will die for his sin, but you will have saved yourself.

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Many today are preaching the Gospel but fewer are the number who are preaching the Gospel that Jesus Christ preached



*****Pastor ***** Tries to be Like Jesus by Not Offending ...