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These Are the People Who Divide You, Worldly-Minded, Who Do Not Have the Spirit Jude 19 and First Corinthians 2:14

These are the people who divide you, worldly-minded, who do not have the Spirit DIG: What characteristics of wickedness do you see here? How did the apostates divide the flock? How did they compare with the Pharisees of Jesus' day? How were they like the Gnostics? What example do we have of this in the Bible? In what way were they worldly-minded or lacking? What is the old nature?

REFLECT: Can people with whom you associate with or work with see a difference in you? Or do you talk and act like everybody else? If you were arrested for being a believer – would there be enough evidence to convict? Just what is that evidence?



These are the people who divide you, worldly-minded, who do not have the Spirit (Jude 19).

The person without the Spirit [the natural man] does not accept the things that come from the Spirit of God but considers them foolishness, and

cannot understand them because they are discerned only through the Spirit (First Corinthians 2:14).

Jude now connects the prophecy of the prophets and the apostles to **his** own readers with the term **these** (*houtoi*). The **wolves in sheep's clothing** in **their** midst were predicted by the prophets and the apostles. **Jude** was not suggesting that the prophets and apostles were thinking of one specific congregation. They prophesied that the Church in general would experience the onslaught of **the apostates**.[106] In another threefold cord of divine truth, **Jude** describes future **mockers** in **his eleventh triad**. **These people** make separations, are **sensual** and lack **the Holy Spirit**.

First, these are the people who divide you (Jude 19a). Once again we are faced with a Greek word found nowhere else in the New Testament. The word for **divide**, *apodiorizo*, means *to make a distinction.* This *distinction* points to the limits that **ADONAI** has communicated in **His** Word for the control of human conduct. **People** sin when **they** overstep these divine limits. An **apostate** scoffs at the limits of the Bible, denies the authority of the Word of **God**, and lives outside the boundaries that true believers respect. As a result, **they** cause **divisions** within the universal Church.

The other side of this truth was given by Paul when he wrote to the church at Corinth: **I hear that when you gather together as a congregation you divide up into cliques, and to a degree I believe it. No doubt there have to be** (*dei*) **differences among you to show which of you have God's approval (First Corinthians 11:19 CJB** and **NIV).** The English phrase: **there have to be** translates the single Greek word *dei*, which means *it is necessary* or *it must be*, and indicates necessity or pressure of any kind. When **Peter** and the other apostles were told by the Sanhedrin (see my commentary on **The Life of Christ, to see link click Lg – The Great Sanhedrin**), to stop preaching the gospel, they replied: **We must obey** (*dei*) **God rather than men (Acts 5:29)!** The word is often used in the B'rit Chadashah to represent divine necessity. **Yeshua** used it many times in relation to certain divinely appointed events including **His** crucifixion and resurrection **(Matthew 24:6, 26:54; John 3:14)**. **The Lord Himself** even said: **Woe to the world because of the things that cause people to sin! Such things must come** (*dei*)**, but woe to the person through whom they come (Matthew 18:7)!** That is the sense in which Paul uses the term above.

The worldliness and fleshly disobedience of those who cause **the divisions** would

expose and highlight the love, harmony, and spirituality of those who **have God's approval**. Approved (*dokimos*) refers to that which has passed a test. The term was used of precious metals tried in fire and proved to be pure. Divisions within the congregations of **God**, sinful as it is, nonetheless is used by **ADONAI** to prove the worth of **His holy ones (Deuteronomy 33:2-3; Job 5:1; Psalm 16:3 and 34:9** and **Jude 1)**. In the midst of the bickering and divisiveness true believers are separated out as pure gold is from the dross. Evil helps to reveal good. **Divisions** in the local congregation caused by unbelievers, creates an opportunity for true spiritual strength, wisdom, and leadership to be displayed **(First Thessalonians 2:3-4)**.[107]

These people portrayed **themselves** as superior to everyone else. Like the Pharisees, **they** were arrogant **(Luke 16:15, 18:9** and **11)**, condescending **(Matthew 23:4-5)**, sticking to **their** self-styled set of rules **(Mark 7:5-8)**, and **their** own understanding of the "truth" **(Matthew 16:6, 11-12)**. Instead of putting others before **themselves**, which is the true key to spiritual unity **(Philippians 2:1-4)**, **they** exalted **themselves** and **their** own agendas. Naturally, the end result was **division** and strife in the congregations of **God**.[108]

The Gnostics (see **Ac – Jude from a Jewish Perspective**: **Purpose**) divided **people** into two categories: those who were tied to this life and could not rise above it, and those who could come into possession of true "knowledge" and were truly spiritual. Some **people** are ready to listen to anything new and different, who are ready to be swept away by whatever new wind of teaching might be blowing. Others, however, better established in the faith, resisted. So it is as if **Jude** was saying, "Very well then. You want *a distinction* to be made . . . you shall have it. You will be set apart for destruction."

We need only turn back one book in our Bibles to find a picture of **Jude 19**. **Diotrephes** is mentioned as a man **who** caused a **division** in one of the churches in the province of Asia by refusing to receive the apostle **John**. The reason was that **Diotrephes** loved **to be first (Third John 9a)**, in which he overstepped the biblical principle: **Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit, but in humility consider others better than yourselves (Philippians 2:3). He** also exhibited other characteristics of apostasy. As **John** wrote: **Diotrephes doesn't recognize our authority . . . and if that weren't enough for him, he refuses to recognize the brothers' authority either; moreover, he stops those who want to do so and tries to drive them out of the congregation (Third John 9b-10 CJB).** It is noteworthy that **John** wrote in the very next verse: **Anyone who**

does what is evil has not seen God (Third John 11c). There was **Diotrephes** doing **evil** within the church. **He** had not **seen God**, nor beheld the Lamb **of God** – **he** was **apostate**, a **false teacher**.

Second, these people are *psuchikos* or **worldly-minded (Jude 19b).** *Psuchikos* can also be translated as *sensual***.** But the word does not mean **debauchery**, as in **Jude 4d**, nor **the lustful desires of sinful human nature (Jude 16d** and **Second Peter 2:18)**; but rather, limited to the realm of the senses, or dominated by the **soul**. Humans consist of **spirit, soul and body (First Thessalonians 5:23). The spirit** is the higher part of us, giving us **God**-consciousness. The **soul** is the self, the personality, the seat of emotions and the will. The Greek word used here is the same word Paul used in **First Corinthians 2:14** in describing *the natural man (or natural woman)*, which means *they are not saved.* Believers are normally *spiritual* if they are obedient to the Word of **God**, although they may be *carnal*, or **infants in Christ (First Corinthians 3:1).** They are never said to be *sensual*. Unsaved **people**, on the other hand, are *natural*, dominated by **their** emotions. **The [natural] man without the [Holy] Spirit does not accept the things that come from the Spirit of God, for they are foolishness to him, and he cannot understand them, because they are spiritually discerned.** This points out that the future **mockers** will not simply be believers who go astray. But rather, **they** are **religious terrorists**.

But you, you do not identify with your old nature but with the Spirit — provided the Spirit of God is living inside you, for anyone who doesn't have the Spirit of the Messiah doesn't belong to Him (Romans 8:9 also see **John 3:5). The imposters** had never become part of the family of **ADONAI**. There is no passage of Scripture that could be made the basis for the concept that **the [natural] man** was ever anything but an unsaved **man**. **Apostates** are **people** who never became children of **the LORD** no matter how deeply they may have been moved by the Good News, no matter how public **their** profession of faith may have been, no matter how prominent the positions **they** may have held in the congregation of **God**. These are *sensual,* **worldly-minded people** who are not, and never were saved.[109]

We can now see how cleverly **Jude** deals with **these people**, who say the rest of the world is *psuchikoi*, while **they** are the *pneumatikoi*. But **Jude** turns the words around and charges them. "It is *you*," he thunders at **them**, "who are the *psuchikoi*, the flesh-dominated; it is *you* who possess no *pneuma*, no real knowledge and no experience of **God**." **Jude** is saying to **these people** that although **they** think of

themselves as the spiritual elite, **they** are in the spiritual gutter. Those whom **they** despise are actually much better off than **they** are **themselves**. The truth about **these** so-called intellectual and spiritual giants was that all **they** really wanted to do was sin, so **they** twisted **their** supposed faith into an excuse to do it.[110]

There will be terrible times in the last days. People will be lovers of themselves, lovers of money, boastful, proud, abusive, disobedient to their parents, ungrateful, unholy, without love, unforgiving, slanderous, without self-control, brutal, not lovers of the good, treacherous, rash, conceited, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God – having a form of godliness but denying its power. Have nothing to do with them (Second Timothy 3:1-5).

Third, and as if to drive the point home, **Jude** adds that they **do not have the Spirit of God (Jude 19c)**, and so are dead in **their** sins **(Ephesians 2:1)**. Even though **the false teachers** claimed to be the spiritual ones, **they** were **dreamers (Jude 8)**, and did not know **Him** at all – **they** did **not have the Spirit of God** (also see **Romans 8:9**). The truth is that **they** were physically alive (*psuchikoi)*, but because **the Holy Spirit** had never regenerated **them**, **they** were spiritually dead. **They** were religious frauds who paid lip service to faith and spiritual life but denied such claims by their actions. As Paul told **Titus, "They claim to know God, but with their actions they deny Him. They are detestable and disobedient; they have proved themselves unfit to do anything good" (Titus 1:16)**.[111]

A true believer is baptized *in/by/with* (*en pneumati,* all three words can be translated interchangeably in Greek) **the Spirit** into the body of Christ, indwelt by **the Spirit**, taught by **the Spirit**, and led by **the Spirit**. An apostate knows nothing of any of these things. But **you can tell for sure that you are now fully adopted as his own children because God sent the Spirit of his Son into our lives crying out, "Papa! Father" (Galatians 4:6 The Message)! Jude's** words are some of the most solemn in the entire Bible. One who does not pay attention to the limits established in the Word of **God** to live by is **worldly-minded and doesn't have the Spirit of the Messiah.** Short of turning to **Jesus Christ** as **Lord** and **Savior**, such a one is lost forever.[112]

Rabbi Sha'ul was correct when he wrote: **For the time will come when people will not put up with sound doctrine. Instead, to suit their own desires, they will gather around them a great number of [false] teachers to say**

what their itching ears want to hear. They will turn their ears away from the truth and turn aside to myths (Second Timothy 4:3-4). As a result, the words of the prophets and apostles are confirmed by the words of **Jude** (see **Aw – Remember What Our Lord Jesus Christ Foretold: There Will Be Scoffers Who Follow Ungodly Desires**).