

FUNGUS AMONG US

Jude 12

Introduction: Builders carefully watch the materials they are using in building a building. They want only the straightest, cleanest, strongest, best materials to be used in order to have a strong, secure building. The early Church had people infiltrate into their congregations who were not true believers. Jude called them "clouds without water, trees without fruit."

Molds and fungus grow on other living things getting nourishment from whatever they are attached to. They are a type of disease, a spongy growth on the surface of whatever they are attached to.

Within God's Church are those who have attached themselves to it contributing nothing and are not a real part of the living body of Christ.

I. IT HAS ALWAYS BEEN, THEREFORE EXPECT IT

1. History reveals the mixture. Men like Cain, Ham, Ishmael, Esau, the wilderness wanderings and rebels like Judas, Ananias and Sapphira.
 - Hypocrites (actors, pretenders) are anywhere people are.
2. They are of Satan's doings. What better way to damage God's Church than infiltrating it?
 - Tares among the wheat parable Jesus told and the story of the Trojan Horse and the Greeks.
 - One pretender in God's Church harms more than a thousand open athiests and blasphemers on the outside of the Church.
3. Some come into the Church by innocence. They were raised in the Church or they came in with a friend. Some were pressured into it or it was "expected" of them.
 - There may have been feelings off uneasiness, but those feelings faded away after a while.
 - It is said that some of our actors really begin to believe that they are in real life those whom they are portraying in acting.
4. Some come into the Church on purpose to disrupt. There will always be fish in the sea, frogs in the ponds, pigs in the mud and people in sin.
 - Ours is an age of lies and sham, from business to private life. Think about it!

II. SERIOUS HARM CAN BE DONE BY UNBELIEVERS IN THE CHURCH

1. They defile the church in God's eyes. This is NOT what Christ died for. This is not the BODY of Christ. This is not ONE ACCORD or ONE MIND. The Church cannot do what it is possible or supposed to do when unbelievers contaminate it.
2. They defile the church programs and services. God accepts NO blemished offerings according to His Law.

- It is an awful thing when an unbeliever is called upon to "lead in prayer" in a worship service or asked to teach a class or to help in the Lord's Supper, or stand in God's pulpit and "preach."
 - Joshua and Israel were defeated at Ai. Not because they were afraid or weak but because of disobedience in the camp.
 - The Church must be free of all sin, unbelief, aliens. If not, the Church is tainted, stained and useless to God.
3. They bring defilement to the Church in the eyes of the world. The world is always looking for something wrong with the Church. Looking for hypocrites. There are thieves, liars in businesses, schools, government and every organization where there are people. The Church cannot be like all others. The Church is to be pure and uncontaminated but the unbelievers within the Church draws the world's attention to that impurity.
 4. They are defiled in their own eyes. Believers just cannot mix with unbelievers within God's Church. The well cannot sit with the sick and not run the risk of becoming contaminated.

III. THE UNGODLY SEEM AT EASE WITHIN THE CHURCH

1. The ungodly have no right to be there, yet they have no fear of the members or of God.
2. Many truly saved have questions, doubts, but not the ungodly. Counterfeits are satisfied.
3. Do any of you have lives that are not what they ought to be? Don't be too confident, don't lull yourself until you are in Hell. ***"Be not deceived, God is not mocked, whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap."***

CONCLUSION: WHAT CAN BE DONE?

1. Remember what you would be if separated from God's grace. (Judas, Ananias, Sapphira).
2. Make sure of your own salvation. 75% of a church's membership is not in worship on any given Sunday. What does that tell you? Are you one of those? Have you done what God said one had to do in order to be saved?
3. Pray for one another. "Don't Let A Wounded Soldier Die."
4. God will one day purge His Church. He will separate the "tares from the wheat." Those not belonging, those planted by Satan will be left here to be judged.
5. Take a look at yourself. Could someone question your being a "real" Christian by your current behavior?