

*In Jude 11 it says this is a letter from Jude, a slave of Jesus Christ and the brother of James. What does it mean to be a slave to Jesus Christ? Jude was his half-brother?*

Jude listed six examples of apostasy (Jud 1:5–6, 7b, 11): the nation of Israel (apostasy caused by unbelief [1:5]), fallen angels (apostasy caused by rebellion [1:6]), Sodom and Gomorrah (apostasy caused by sexual immorality [1:7b]), Cain (apostasy caused by religious perversion [1:11a]), Balaam (apostasy caused by financial greed [1:11b]) and Korah (apostasy caused by rejection of divine authority [1:11c]).<sup>1</sup>

Sin causes men to stumble (Nu 32:23). Jesus said, “Everyone who commits sin is a slave of sin (Jn 8:34).” One will be a slave to sin or he will be a slave to Christ (Jn 8:34).

John MacArthur said, “Being a slave of Christ may be the best way to define a Christian. We are, as believers, slaves of Christ.”<sup>2</sup>

Christians have been freed from sin (1 Co 6:11) and have become slaves to God (Ro 6:15–23). Believers are: unified with Christ (Ga 3:28), treated fairly by him (Eph. 6:9) and work to please him (Eph 6:5–8).<sup>3</sup>

*[Follow up question] Why you said he was a slave of Jesus Christ when he was his half-brother?*

Jude was Jesus’ brother and a slave to him--as are all Christ followers. Similarly, Mary was Jesus’ mother yet called him her God and savior (Lk 1:46). Being their Lord was superior to their familial relationship.

Jesus’ lineage was of the Davidic line. He said that David wrote Psalm 110 about him (Mt 22:45). Jesus was *greater than* David’s son. He was the promised Messiah (Mk 1:15).

Whoever calls on him (Joe 2:32), confesses him as Lord (Ro 10:9) and submits to his Lordship (Phil 2:11) will be saved.

---

<sup>1</sup> Willmington, H. L. (1999). The Outline Bible (Jud 5–11). Tyndale House Publishers.

<sup>2</sup> MacArthur, John. “Slaves for Christ.” *Grace to You*, 5 Aug. 2007, [www.gty.org/library/sermons-library/80-321/slaves-for-christ](http://www.gty.org/library/sermons-library/80-321/slaves-for-christ).

<sup>3</sup> Ibid, pg. 580.