

## Evil Men

"Yet in the same manner these men, also by dreaming, defile the flesh, and reject authority, and revile dignities." Jude 1:8

The word "dreamer" may refer to their heresy in that they "dream" when they draw from their imaginations doctrines void of biblical support and call them true; they may be guilty of teaching that their antinomian dreams are revelations from God. It can also refer to the stupor in which they find themselves when they suppose that God will not judge them as Scripture so clearly teaches He will. Note the three things which characterize them.

Tragically, we have these three characteristics in the lives of many who profess Christ. They excuse their **lustful behavior** (divorce, homosexuality, etc.), **rejecting God's authority** (Scripture), while teaching that because they live free in Christ they can treat God's authority **irrelevantly** (insisting that those who endeavor to keep biblical commands practice legalism).

Jude seems to be saying, "They rail at what transcends the senses, while admiring what appeals to the senses and appetites; this, in turn, causes their ruin." Like unreasoning animals, their appetites motivate them. It is ironic that in rejecting God's moral law, they think themselves brilliant, while in reality they act like animals. **Progressive thinking leads to progressive morals, so that physically they become immoral. Intellectually, they become arrogant, and spiritually, they reject God's authority. In every age, the quest for autonomy leads people in this direction.**