

Contenders. Pretenders. Intenders.

Introduction:

What kind of people made the first century church *thrive*? What kind of people makes the church *thrive* today? We'll be spending our time together in the book of Acts - studying about the history of the church and the people who made both good and bad decisions.

#1: CONTENDERS

Peter - Acts 2:14; 32; 37-38; 41; Acts 4:7-13; 1 Peter 5:1-3

Philippians 1:27 - ...with one mind *striving side by side* for the faith of the gospel...

Acts 2:42-47; Acts 4:32-37; Acts 8:1-4; Mark 16:15

#2: PRETENDERS

Matthew 7:15 - ...in sheep's clothing but inwardly are ravenous wolves.

Acts 20:29-30; 2 Peter 2:1

Ananias & Sapphira - Acts 5:1-11

#3: INTENDERS

Felix - Acts 24:24-25 - "When I get an opportunity..."

Luke 9:57-62 - "Let me first..."

Conclusion: *Which one are you?*

Jude 3 - ...*contend for the faith* that was once for all delivered to the saints.

2 Timothy 4:7 - I have *fought* the good fight, I have *finished* the race, I have *kept* the faith.