

"Compromise Can Corrupt One's Faith"

The First Century Gospel Church/Philadelphia

#S220R

WED/8/18/2021

Compromise on principles of Truth' on spiritual issues can corrupt one's *faith in God* and end in horrible results because compromise takes us further away from a position of *trust on God* through faith on the Name of His Son, Jesus. Compromising with God's Word and His will for us, will begin to undermine our true faith in the Atonement work of Christ, and can lead us to defilement of our conscience, (while we are at the same time asking for the Holy Spirit to guide us via our conscience).

God said Ezekiel 20:18, "Walk ye not in the statutes of your fathers, neither observe their judgments, nor defile yourselves with their idols", because when we compromise on some issue in our life, it can easily become an idol in our heart. We are many times not even aware that we are compromising or that Satan has suggested a compromise (because Satan is always in disguise and deceitful in his suggestions to our mind. It can be a gradual process of moving away from our position of trust on God.

When the Holy Spirit convicts us of something that is outside of God's will in our life, we need to, and must take the necessary steps to make corrections, so our heart does not become deceived nor hardened against God's Word. (Hebr.3:15) "*Today, if you hear his voice, do not harden your hearts as you did in the rebellion.*"

Satan tries to use compromise with matters of fellowship, as he tempts a believer to desire the company of an unbeliever, someone who is not willing to trust God in faith on things in life. "What does a believer have in common with an unbeliever?" (2 Cor.6:15)

For one to have a close relationship with someone after it is realized that, that person does not trust God for life issues that come about, is a compromise which can defile one's conscience, and hinder them from being prepared for eternal life. Keeping wrong and questionable fellowship is used by Satan to influence a person's heart and cause them to stray away from the faithful pathway of obedience and trust on the letter of God's Word. If we would compromise on an issue involving a 'principle of God's Truth' (which one cannot afford to ignore), it can quickly lead us away from trusting God in faith. We will become more tolerant of false and compromised places of trust on the plans and policies inspired by the devil and are set up and put in place by unbelievers, and of which instead of us tolerating them, we should be offended by them.

Pharaoh offered a compromised plan to allow the Israelites to go out of Egypt to worship their God (apart from wrong relationship with Egyptians, but they would have had to leave the children behind (and at the mercy of a Satan-controlled people and to be tempted to compromise on a faithful commitment to God). Today the devil has influenced millions of young people to compromise with God's Word on

fellowship or leisure time activities, because the devil knows that it can corrupt their faith and defile their conscience before God.

Satan has continually increased his efforts to deceive people via worldly entertainment. The programs, the shows, the movies, advertisements, and just about anything that comes through social media today, can corrupt a person via images or messages that are in opposition to Bible teaching. The lifestyles and the thinking of the world today, can enter our mind through many and various devices and ways devised by Satan. Social media and television programming today, can be a huge and wrong influence on us (and unfortunately that usually seems to be the case, because Satan deceitfully hides in the background, and he knows how and when to tempt a person).

[In addition to that (and as an example), much of the (seemingly innocent) 'group messaging' taking place constantly among youngsters and people of all ages, leaves the door wide open for a person of any age to be tempted to purposely (or innocently) let their needs and desires be known to others of the group (or otherwise). That is, instead of one who professes to be a Christian believer letting those things be known only to God and trusting on Him alone to provide all things for them. Letting needs be known to others would be a compromised 'principle of Truth and trust' on a 'spiritual issue', which can corrupt a person's faith in God and end with bad results in their spiritual life. Spiritual interests of a person and their children (for whom they are indeed responsible), should always be considered first in every decision regarding a circumstance or situation we face in our life, family, and home.]

Compromise on any issue can take us out of God's will and away from the convictions we may have had on important matters. If we have compromised on God's Word in anything, we need to repent and get grafted back onto the Vine, Jesus Christ. Jesus promised that for us, if we will only repent of our compromise of unbelief. (Rom. 11:22-23) "Therefore consider the goodness and severity of God: on those who fell, severity; but toward you, goodness, if you continue in His goodness. Otherwise, you also will be cut off. And they also, if they do not continue in unbelief, will be grafted in, for God is able to graft them in again."

Pharaoh wanted to retain his grip on the Israelites, just as Satan wants to retain his grip on some part of our life. Compromise can be gradual, but it is always a continual moving away from a position of faith in God, until our heart is defiled. We must repent of any compromise, and then reconnect to the Word and will of God.

Moving away from a position of faith in God has happened too many times. We cannot fight the devil in our own strength, but we can," do all things through Christ who strengthens me." (We are told Phil.4:13) When Simon Peter denied Jesus, he had already taken several steps in the wrong direction. Satan always tries to have us move outside of the will of God by us 'compromising' on some issue.

Compromise can begin very subtly and deceive a person very quickly. During the Last Supper with His disciples, Jesus said (Luke 22:31-32), "Simon, Simon, behold, Satan hath desired to have you, that he may sift you as wheat: But I have prayed for thee, that thy faith fail-not: and when thou art converted' [meaning, have returned to Me], will "strengthen thy brethren."

It surprised Simon Peter to hear that his heart needed to be converted or that he needed to turn back. (Luke 22:33) "He said unto him, Lord, I am ready to go with thee, both into prison, and to death." Peter meant that, others may fall away from the faith, but I never will. It was boasting in self-confidence which completely failed him, because he would soon deny the Lord—three times. (1Cor. 10: 12 is a stark reminder for all of us to take heed," Let him who thinks he stands, take heed lest he fall."

Peter had been compromising instead of praying as Jesus said we should do (Luke 22:40) "Pray that ye enter not into temptation." Each time Jesus returned, they were asleep—they were not alert and not praying, so they were caught off guard when Judas arrived.

The sin of commission is doing something we should not be doing; but a sin of omission is not doing what we should be doing—they should have been watching and praying. (1 Thess.5:17-18)" Pray without ceasing. In everything give thanks: for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you." Satan tempts us to compromise and postpone our praying until we are too tired to concentrate.

The devil will tempt us to compromise on just about anything. Peter compromised again and lashed out in anger when he drew his sword in retaliation and revenge. The Word says (James 1:19-20)" Let everyone be quick [swift av] to hear, slow to speak, and slow to be angry. For a man's anger does not lead to action which God regards as righteous."

When Jesus was arrested and Peter followed at a distance (Luke 22:54), he was being a passive spectator, rather than an active believer. He said that he loved the Lord, but he denied it when someone identified him with the Lord. We can also be guilty of following God's Word at a distance, professing faith but showing no action. 'Hypocrites', Jesus said (Matt.15:8-9) as they "honor me with their lips, but their hearts are far from me."

If Satan has deceived us to compromise on some issue, spiritual regression will be the result if corrections are not made. The no faith attitude of the world begins to be our own attitude if it is not remedied. Compromise results in withering of our faith and bearing no spiritual fruit. (John 15:5) "He that abideth in me, and I in him, the same bringeth forth much fruit: for without me ye can do nothing."

Wrong fellowship can be used by the devil to corrupt faith in God. Elimelech and Naomi compromised by moving to Moab (against the Word of God, which was not to associate with Moabites (Ruth 1:2).

Spiritual growth stopped after that un-Scriptural decision, and the results of that compromise were soon apparent and serious.

Mahlon [MA lahn] and Chilion [KIL ih ahn]— married Moabite women; Elimelech died, and ten years later the two sons passed away. Naomi soon repented and corrected that mistake by moving *back* to Judah, and back into God's will (as King David did a few generations later.)

Jesus died on the cross to pay for the forgiveness of our sins, and He asks us to follow Him in uncompromising faith. He warned the Ephesian church about their compromising (Reve. 2:5) "Remember therefore from whence thou art fallen, and repent, and do the first works; or else I will come unto thee quickly, and will remove thy candlestick out of his place, except thou repent."

Attractions of the world (in past times and even more-so today), can tempt us to compromise our trust on God. Compromise can separate two hearts in a marriage, even though God said that nothing should separate them. When two compromise and stop communicating with each other, the devil can form a wedge between them. Marriage vows are a *covenant* between two people, an agreement to love each other for better, for worse, and for life. This lifetime union is to mean to be a close bond of friendship until Jesus returns. When we compromise with God's Word on anything or with any circumstance that we face, the results will be disastrous.

Concerning worldly fellowship, un-Scriptural entertainment, worldly magazines, books, websites, frequenting places that involve alcohol and questionable activities, or getting too friendly with unbelievers via social media, ... all of that can have us compromise with God's will concerning those things and in those areas. If that has happened with us, it is time to repent, confess to God, forsake those wrong and spiritually harmful interests, ask God to cleanse our heart and forgive us, and graft us again to the true Vine, Jesus Christ by faith (so that He can continue in us).

If we have formed a close friendship with anyone who opposes God's Truth, it is time to make some serious changes. (Psalm 1:1) "Blessed is the man Who walks not in 'the counsel of the ungodly', Nor stands in the path of sinners, nor sits in the seat of the scornful." When we deliberately put ourselves on the devil's territory (and he will surely take advantage of the opportunity that we give him), while we also hinder the Holy Spirit's power to work for us, so we are not able to defend against Satan.

We should desire the close companionship of those who walk in the light of God's Truth, and who really trust God in faith on what the Atonement work of Christ has accomplished, ...peace, provisions, protection, health, healing, forgiveness, and salvation. (1 Cor.15: 33)," Do not deceive yourselves: 'Evil companionships corrupt good morals.'" By staying close to the enemy, Simon Peter began to act like them (Luke 22:59), and he denied the Lord.

Peter's third denial (Matthew 26), also included oaths, so he would have to repent and confess that sin to God as well, because Jesus said not to swear at all (Matt.5:34-35), "either by heaven, for it is God's throne; or by the earth, for it is his footstool; or by Jerusalem, for it is the city of the Great King."

Jesus told us (Matthew 10:33) "Whoever disowns me before men, I will disown him before my Father in heaven." But Jesus will always forgive, if we are willing to repent. After Jesus looked at Peter, he recalled his words and wept. "Godly sorrow brings repentance that leads to salvation and leaves no regret" (2 Cor.7:10).

The apostle Peter later wrote about the bitter lesson that he had learned. (2 Peter 3:17-18) "Beware lest ye also, being led away with the error of the wicked, fall from your own steadfastness. But grow in grace, and in the knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ." He had learned a spiritual lesson (Jonah 2:8) "They that observe lying vanities forsake their own mercy;" (or) "Those who cling to worthless idols forfeit the grace that could be theirs."

Satan is a dangerous enemy, and his weapon is compromise. Fear from the devil can have us compromise. The devil knows the first step in the wrong direction, can lead to the wrong destination. Compromise is used as the first cut from the Vine. If corrections are not made, the process continues, with the flames finally consuming the spiritually dead branch, which no longer trusts God in faith for anything.

We must resist the devil in the Name of Jesus, and not compromise where God's Word has clearly spoken. (Hebr.3:7-8) "(As the Holy Ghost saith, today if ye will hear his voice, ^s Harden not your hearts, as in the provocation, in the day of temptation in the wilderness." (Hebr.3:12)" Take heed, brethren, lest there be in any of you an evil heart of unbelief, in departing from the living God."

No compromise is allowed. Every attitude, every decision, every loved one, and every child belongs to the Lord; (Hebr.3:14) "We are made partakers of Christ, if we hold the beginning of our confidence steadfast unto the end." Compromise will result in further corruption, but a sincerely true repentance will lead one to Salvation, -which would never be regretted because that means Life Eternal.

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S220R Some main points are:

- 1 When a person compromises on 'principles of Truth' given us in God's Word, the devil will always use that compromise to weaken that person's true and steadfast faith and trust on God, Himself.
- 2 Any compromise with God's Word and will in a person's life (if it is not sincerely repented of), will eventually cause them to be 'cut off from the true Vine, Jesus Christ.
- 3 However, when one is truly repentant and will confess, correct, and forsake their mistake, God in His great mercy and love for them, will graft them again to that true Vine, since He wants to lead each and every person to confess, repent, and be saved from their sins through the cleansing power of Jesus' Blood.