

# THE DANGER OF COMPROMISE

1 Corinthians 15:58

## INTRODUCTION:

- A. A New York family bought a ranch out West where they intended to raise cattle. Friends visited and asked if the ranch had a name. "Well," said the would-be cattleman, "I wanted to name it the Bar-J. My wife favored Suzy-Q, one son liked the Flying-W, and the other wanted the Lazy-Y. So we're calling it the Bar-J-Suzy-Q-Flying-W-Lazy-Y." "But where are all your cattle?" the friends asked.  
**"NONE SURVIVED THE BRANDING."**
- B. "Therefore, my beloved brethren, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that your labor is not in vain in the Lord."**1 Corinthians 15:58**
- C. "The result or embodiment of concession or adjustment; blending qualities of two different things"- Webster's Collegiate Dictionary
- D. Sometimes compromise can be POSITIVE.  
Example: Husbands and wives must sometimes compromise when both have strongly held views.
- E. Sometimes compromise can be NEGATIVE.  
· A further definition: "Concession to something derogatory or prejudicial."  
(Merriman Webster Online Dictionary).
- F. Tonight we are going to be talking about the NEGATIVE aspect of compromise, seen in this GRAPHIC:
1. The Christian and sin should have no dealings with one another.
  2. What brings them together? Often it is COMPROMISE.

## I. BIBLICAL EXAMPLES OF COMPROMISE:

There are a number of men and women in the Bible who compromised what is right for various reasons. This morning I want to mention just three of them:

- A. SAMSON, *Judges 16:4-21*.
1. Samson, a Nazarite from birth, was given great strength by God.
  2. Being a Nazarite meant that he was never to cut his hair nor drink wine or other intoxicating beverages.
  3. Faced with the persistent request of Delilah, Samson compromised his entire life's purpose and was captured, his eyes put out and was put into prison,  
***Judges 16:4-21***.
- B. SOLOMON, *1 Kings 11*
1. God had given warnings about associating with the pagans that surrounded them, and He was displeased when His people took foreign wives,

- Nehemiah 13:23-26.
2. Though a man of wisdom, chosen by God to be the king over Israel, look what happened when he compromised: “For it was so, when Solomon was old, that his wives turned his heart after other gods; and his heart was not loyal to the LORD his God, as was the heart of his father David.” **1 Kings 11:4.**
  3. Because of this compromise, Solomon “built altars for all his foreign wives , who burned incense and sacrificed to their gods.” **1 Kings 11:8.**

C. The SAMARITANS, **2 Kings 17:32-33.**

“So they feared the LORD, and from every class they appointed for themselves priests of the high places, who sacrificed for them in the shrines of the high places. 33 *They feared the LORD, yet served their own gods* - according to the rituals of the nations from among whom they were carried away.”

## II. SOME WHO REFUSED TO COMPROMISE:

A. JOSEPH, *Genesis 39.*

1. There were many opportunities where Joseph could have turned from God and compromised what is right.
2. The primary example that comes to mind is when Potiphar’s wife approached him and tempted him to commit sin with her, *Genesis 39:7-9.*

B. DANIEL and his friends, *Daniel 1-3.*

1. “Daniel purposed in his heart that he would not defile himself with the portion of the king's delicacies, nor with the wine which he drank.” *Daniel 1:8.*
2. Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-Nego refused to bow and worship the golden image of King Nebuchadnezzar, *Daniel 3:12.*

C. The APOSTLES in *Acts 4-5.*

1. They were beaten, threatened, thrown into prison.
2. “But Peter and the other apostles answered and said:”We ought to obey God rather than men.” *Acts 5:29.*
3. “So they departed from the presence of the council, rejoicing that they were counted worthy to suffer shame for His name.” *Acts 5:41.*

- D. What great lessons and encouragement we can get from these great people of faith and courage.

## III. WHY DO PEOPLE COMPROMISE?

A. **FEAR:**

1. Fear of not being ACCEPTED:

- a. Afraid to go against the CROWD.
  - b. “*THE OPPOSITE OF BRAVERY IS NOT COWARDICE, BUT CONFORMITY.*”  
-- Robert Anthony.
  - c. How many young people AND adults have compromised what they knew was right to go along with friends, schoolmates and coworkers?
2. Fear of REJECTION: Herod was unwilling to go against the crowd at his feast, **Matthew 14:1-12.**
- a. This led to the beheading of John after request of the daughter of Herodius who danced before them at their feast.
  - b. “And the king was sorry; nevertheless, because of the oaths and because of those who sat with him, he commanded it to be given to her. **Matthews 14:9.**

## B. TOLERANCE:

1. Definition of tolerance: “sympathy or indulgence for beliefs or practices differing from or conflicting with one's own,” (Miriam Webster Collegiate Dict.)
2. Again, Tolerance can have a *positive* and a *negative* aspect:
  - a. POSITIVE: we should be kind and caring about others and understanding in areas of opinion and personal liberty.
  - b. NEGATIVE: some have gone so far as to say that we must be tolerant of ANYTHING and EVERYTHING.
3. Some will tolerate *ANYTHING* except INTOLERANCE.
4. Tolerance is at the root of:
  - a. Relativism: belief that truth is subjective, decided on a personal basis.
  - b. Postmodernism: using the concept of Relativism.
  - c. The Emerging Church Movement: being accepting and trying to adapt to those outside the church in order to appeal to them.
5. What we must realize is that what they are asking for is compromise.

## C. PLEASURE:

1. Most want to do what they think will make them happy because they *deserve* it.
2. This often is sought through compromise of *STANDARDS*.
3. Many are willing to compromise *VALUES* in order to be happy.

## IV. FOUR STAGES OF COMPROMISE:

### A. ATTRACTION.

1. It is something that gets your *ATTENTION*.
2. LOT was attracted to the well-watered plain of Jordan, **Genesis 13:10.** That was

- the first step toward eventual heartache.
3. EVE: “So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, that it was pleasant to the eyes, and a tree desirable to make one wise, she took of its fruit and ate. She also gave to her husband with her, and he ate.” **Genesis 3:6.**
    - a. There is nothing wrong with being hungry or desiring an appetizing fruit.
    - b. It is wrong to compromise what God has said to fill that hunger.
    - c. The attraction of the fruit was the **FIRST STEP** in compromising God’s command.
  3. This is the process of *TEMPTATION*, **James 1:13-15.**

#### **B. JUSTIFICATION.**

1. It is easy to *JUSTIFY* and *RATIONALIZE* what we really want to do.
2. If we are attracted to something or someone, it is easy to come up with reasons to soothe the conscience and justify our desires.
3. EXAMPLE of Justification: “What I’m doing is not as bad as what so and so is doing.”
4. Bible examples:
  - a. Adam, **Genesis 3:12.**
  - b. Saul justified his disobedience, **1 Samuel 15:20-21.**
  - c. Aaron and the golden calf, **Exodus 32:22-24.**

#### **C. INDULGENCE.**

1. *RESTRAINTS* are removed and the *CONSCIENCE* becomes hardened.
2. Then we willingly participate in actions once abhorred.
3. “Then, when desire has conceived, it gives birth to sin; and sin, when it is full-grown, brings forth death.” **James 1:15.**
4. “Having lost all sensitivity, they have given themselves over to sensuality so as to indulge in every kind of impurity, with a continual lust for more.” **Ephesians 4:19.**

#### **D. RE-DEFINITION.**

1. People adopt new names for sin:
  - a. “SIN” has become an ugly word:
  - b. People who use the word “sin” are too judgmental and not TOLERANT.
2. Re-defining sinful acts removes guilt and the sense of compromise.
3. Newly defined terms become the new norm.
4. “*COMPROMISE IS SIMPLY CHANGING THE QUESTION TO FIT THE ANSWER.*”

### **V. THE DANGER OF COMPROMISE:**

- A. ILLUSTRATION: Did you year about the man who couldn’t make up his mind which side to be for in the Civil War? He donned a blue coat and grey pants to try to appease both sides. What happened? The South shot him in the coat and the North shot him in the pants.
- B. “He who is not with Me is against Me, and he who does not gather with Me scatters abroad.” **Matthew 12:30.**
- C. "And to the angel of the church of the Laodiceans write, 'These things says the Amen, the Faithful and True Witness, the Beginning of the creation of God: 15 "I know your

works, that you are neither cold nor hot. I could wish you were cold or hot. 16 So then, because you are lukewarm, and neither cold nor hot, I will vomit you out of My mouth.  
*Revelation 3:14-17.*

## **CONCLUSION:**

### **A. WHAT THE DEVIL WANTS TO DO:**

1. ROB GOD OF HIS GLORY.
2. PREVENT PEOPLE FROM EVER BEING SAVED.
3. PREVENT CHRISTIANS FROM BEING FRUITFUL AND EFFECTIVE.

**B.** What is an effective tool the devil uses to accomplish these goals? **COMPROMISE.**

**C.** Have you compromised your **CONVICTIONS**?

Have you compromised the **TRUTH**?

Have you compromised your **OBEDIENCE**?

COMPROMISE

Martin 02/22/09

GROANER: One morning at the beginning of Sunday school class, the teacher picked up the podium and walked back and forth with it. When someone asked, "What are you doing?" he replied, "*Well, sometimes you just need to take a stand.*" It was a great beginning for a lesson on the importance of strong convictions that will not compromise.

A New York family bought a ranch out West where they intended to raise cattle. Friends visited and asked if the ranch had a name. "Well," said the would-be cattleman, "I wanted to name it the Bar-J. My wife favored Suzy-Q, one son liked the Flying-W, and the other wanted the Lazy-Y. So we're calling it the Bar-J-Suzy-Q-Flying-W-Lazy-Y." "But where are all your cattle?" the friends asked. *NONE SURVIVED THE BRANDING.*

King Cyrus issued a decree that the people of Judah could return and rebuild the temple (Ezra 1). But God's adversaries attempted to "hinder" the building by their interference (Ezra 4). This they sought to do in three ways. **FIRST**, they tried to deceive the Jews into compromise (Ezra 4:2). **SECOND**, they "hindered the hands of the people" (Ezra 4:4). **THIRD**, they misrepresented Israel (Ezra 4:5). The work was halted until Darius issued his decree allowing the work to resume (Ezra 6). In like fashion, the work of rebuilding the walls was also hindered (Nehemiah).

Col 1:21-2:1

21 And you, who once were alienated and enemies in your mind by wicked works, yet now He has reconciled 22 in the body of His flesh through death, to present you holy, and blameless, and above reproach in His sight - 23 if indeed you continue in the faith, grounded and steadfast, and are not moved away from the hope of the gospel which you heard, which was preached to every creature under heaven, of which I, Paul, became a minister.

24 Sacrificial Service for Christ

I now rejoice in my sufferings for you, and fill up in my flesh what is lacking in the afflictions of Christ, for the sake of His body, which is the church, 25 of which I became a minister according to the stewardship from God which was given to me for you, to fulfill the word of God, 26 the mystery which has been hidden from ages and from generations, but now has been revealed to His saints. 27 To them God willed to make known what are the riches of the glory of this mystery among the Gentiles: which is Christ in you, the hope of glory. 28 Him we preach, warning every man and teaching every man in all wisdom, that we may present every man perfect in Christ Jesus. 29 To this end I also labor, striving according to His

working which works in me mightily.

NKJV

Many people can be bought if the price is right. "Stop. You're getting close to my price."

### **DO NOT COMPROMISE WHAT IS RIGHT:**

Proverbs 23:23

23 Buy the truth, and do not sell it,  
Also wisdom and instruction and understanding.

Pharaoh (Exodus 7-10)

after the swarm of the flies, Pharaoh asked Moses to take them away. Moses said they needed to offer a sacrifice to God and Pharaoh suggested they offer it in the land of Egypt (Exodus 8:26).

Moses said: "We will go three days' journey into the wilderness and sacrifice to the LORD our God as He will command us." Exodus 8:27.

28 So Pharaoh said, "I will let you go, that you may sacrifice to the LORD your God in the wilderness ; only you shall not go very far away. Intercede for me." Exodus 8:28.

After the 9<sup>th</sup> plague, Pharaoh again wanted to compromise, letting the Israelites go into the wilderness, but they had to leave their flocks behind. Moses' answer: "Our livestock also shall go with us; not a hoof shall be left behind. For we must take some of them to serve the LORD our God, and even we do not know with what we must serve the LORD until we arrive there." Exodus 10:26.