

A DISCUSSION ON COMPROMISE

BIBLICAL, TRADITIONAL,
AND PERSONAL PREFERENCE



9 The next day, as they were on their journey and approaching the city, Peter went up on the housetop about the sixth hour to pray. 10 And he became hungry and wanted something to eat, but while they were preparing it, he fell into a trance 11 and saw the heavens opened and something like a great sheet descending, being let down by its four corners upon the earth. 12 In it were all kinds of animals and reptiles and birds of the air. 13 And there came a voice to him: "Rise, Peter; kill and eat." 14 But Peter said, "By no means, Lord; for I have never eaten anything that is common or unclean." 15 And the voice came to him again a second time, "What God has made clean, do not call common." 16 This happened three times, and the thing was taken up at once to heaven. 17 Now while Peter was inwardly perplexed as to what the vision that he had seen might mean, behold, the men who were sent by Cornelius, having made inquiry for Simon's house, stood at the gate 18 and called out to ask whether Simon who was called Peter was lodging there. 19 And while Peter was pondering the vision, the Spirit said to him, "Behold, three men are looking for you. 20 Rise and go down and accompany them without hesitation, for I have sent them."

Acts 10:9-20

I love the initiative that this group has shown in chasing after not just the will of God, but the intentionality in wanting to better learn the Word of God and how to apply His Word in an increasingly complex world. I am reminded every single day by the words of Josh Carson, "you are not Elisha. You are Elijah."

- We are being called to step up here and now.
- We are being called to dig deeper into God's Word.
- We are being called to lead others to the gospel.

The only way that we can be effective in this new role is for us to better understand the word of God and not be swayed or confused by people that are intent on confusing and distracting us.



So how do we begin to defend against compromise?

- Identify problem areas in your life. Personal struggles or past addictions pose the most immediate threat to any Christian.
- Identify contradictory voices in your life. Peers and some figures that we respect can have a place in our lives, but if they begin to apply negative pressure or we allow their voice to influence us contrary to the standard set forth by the Word of God, we must quickly shut out that influence.
- Identify areas where you feel you are weakest in your understanding of the foundational things. This one is super important because of just how difficult it can be to ask for help, especially spiritual help. It takes years of study to grasp many truths that the Bible lays out; if we are unsteady in any of these areas, it can present a weakness that the enemy will exploit.

Most importantly, we need to set up good habits in protecting our mind and our spirit through prayer, fasting, and habitual studying of the Word of God. Takes notes. Review later.

As Christians, there are areas that we simply cannot afford to compromise in. As chose, anointed children of God there is a certain expectation that He has for our lifestyle and it's a level of standard that we should expect for ourselves as well.

Compromise Creates Compromise

So when we allow our standards to slip and accept things that are below our calling, we invite compromise to take a foothold in our lives. Identifying and embracing your value is one of the most important things you can do for yourself in creating a fulfilling and healthy lifestyle, both physically and spiritually.



- **Our Work:** Confidence and positivity in your professional life directly correlate with the likelihood of you being respected and promoted. For those that think of themselves poorly, they will be more willing to accept a job that is below them as well as pay that is below their worth.

God wants you to be blessed and fulfilled in your work. You deserve a job that both supports you and brings you happiness.

- **Our Relationships:** When we engage in friendships, and God forbid, romantic relationships that are below our calling, we open ourselves up to a slew of compromising opportunities. Throughout scripture and history, people have been misled because of the relationships that they invest in.

God wants you to be connected with friends that edify and encourage you, and a partner that is spiritually grounded and champions your worth and abilities in all areas.

- **Our Ministries:** Compromise in our ministries can be one of the most dangerous aspects of compromise because we aren't just living in sin; we are ultimately misleading a much larger group of people in the process. As ministers, God does not take kindly to the misleading and mistreatment of His children.

God wants your ministry to be a place that you can find purpose and a means by which to love and reach people using our God-given talents.



In the same way that we identified problem areas that might open the door to compromising in our walk with God, we need to look at areas that we don't feel valued, effective, or qualified as potential hazards. Those are the places that we are going to accept second best when God is trying to show us that we deserve the very best.

At the end of the day, the best thing that we can do is administer daily self-checks; asking ourselves if we have allowed compromise to seep into our lives. Compromise is so dangerous because it is slight and gradual. So while it can be a sneaky descent into sin, it can also be easily reversed and uprooted when we catch it early.

This is the message we have heard from him and proclaim to you, that God is light, and in him is no darkness at all. If we say we have fellowship with him while we walk in darkness, we lie and do not practice the truth. But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus his Son cleanses us from all sin. If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. If we say we have not sinned, we make him a liar, and his word is not in us.

I John 1:5-10

