

THE DOCTRINE OF COMPROMISE

One of Satan's most potent weapons is compromise. The word "compromise" means "to reach an agreement by concession" (*Webster*). Satan has always wanted God's people to compromise the truth with error. When Satan can get us to compromise, he knows he can destroy the church of the Lord and cause us to lose our souls in hell.

In the first century, Satan tried to compromise the truth of the gospel with Judaism. The Judaizing teachers taught "*except ye be circumcised after the manner of Moses, ye cannot be saved*" (Acts 15:1). The apostles and elders at Jerusalem said that they "*gave no such commandment*" as was being taught by the Judaizers (Acts 15:24). The Apostle Paul said that he did not compromise with these false teachers "*an hour, that the truth of the gospel might continue with you*" (Gal. 2:5). There were those in the church at Pergamos who held to "*the doctrine of Balaam*", which was the doctrine of compromising with sin, and it certainly did not please the Lord (Rev. 2:14).

The devil is busy in the church today promoting the doctrine of compromise. Elders, preachers, and members are falling for his lethal weapon, and we are seeing a drifting away from the truth which we have fought so hard to restore and maintain.

There are those who want to place some matters of doctrine within the scope of Romans chapter 14 so that fellowship can exist with those who teach and practice doctrinal error. Romans 14 is dealing with personal liberty in matters of indifference, NOT doctrinal matters.

Brethren, there is no middle message between truth and false doctrine. There is but ONE body of doctrine which is truth (John 7:17; 8:32). This body of doctrine is called "*the faith*" (Acts 6:7; Jude 3); "*the doctrine of Christ*", (II John 9); "*the truth*" (John 8:32); "*the gospel*" (Rom. 1:16); "*sound doctrine*" (II Tim. 4:3; Tit. 2:1); and "*one faith*" (Eph. 4:5). This body of doctrine can be understood and obeyed alike (Eph. 5:17; 3:3-4; Matt. 7:21; John 7:17).

No one can teach "another gospel" without being accursed of God (Gal. 1:6-9) -- He will not tolerate either adding to or taking from this body of doctrine (Rev. 22:18-19). God intended that His people be united upon His Word (John 17:20-21), that they "*all speak the same thing, and that there be no divisions among them*" (I Cor. 1:10).

Satan has brought compromising "false unity" among God's people, and many have fallen for the compromise -- it is called "unity-in-diversity".

This expressing, "unity-in-diversity", is a contradiction of terms. "Unity" means "the state of being one; concord; agreement; harmony" -- it is the very absence of diversity; "diversity" is "the state of being diverse (different)", and is opposed to unity. To "dwell in unity" is to dwell together without differences (I Cor. 1:10); diversity is to dwell together with differences. Unity is brought about by individuals accepting the word of God (John 17:20-21); diversity is had by agreement to get along in compromise with false doctrine. Unity *forbids* division (Eph. 1:10; 4:1-6); diversity *acknowledges* and *encourages* division. Unity can only be had by the removal of the teaching and practice of error (Rom. 16:17; Tit. 3:10; II John 9-11); diversity *opens the floodgates* for all kinds of error and teaching. Unity fulfills the word of God (John 17:20-21); diversity makes *sincerity* and the *conscience* the authority instead of the gospel. Unity is had by *doing the will of God* (Phil. 1:27; John 17:20-21); diversity is had by the *compromise of convictions* and *disregarding differences*. Unity *excludes* error (Eph. 5:11; II John 9-11); diversity is an effort to *smooth over* false doctrine

(error) *without removing the error*. The word of God is the *foundation* of unity (John 17: 20 - 21); diversity has at its foundation *liberty of opinion* in doctrinal matters.

There is to be no compromise or fellowship with those in error (Eph. 5:11; Rom. 16: 17 - 18; II John 9 - 11; I Cor. 5: 1 - 8). There can be no compromise with *denominationalism* (II John 9 - 11), with *instrumental music* (Eph. 5:19; Col. 3:16); with the *use of human institutions* to do the work of the church (the church is sufficient to do its own work, Acts 14:23); *with those who teach that one can divorce his/her mate and remarry without the cause of fornication* (Matt. 19:9; Luke 16:18); with *social drinking* (I Pet. 4:3); or with *worldliness in general* (I John 2: 15 - 17; Gal. 5: 19 - 21).

Brethren, there can be no compromise or fellowship with those in error if we want to be pleasing to God (Eph. 5:11; Rom . 16: 17 - 18; II John 9 - 11; I Cor. 5: 1 - 8). Let us all be alert to the difference between Bible unity and religious diversity of opinions as a means of "false unity". "Unity-in-diversity" is the devil's compromise -- don't fall for it; it will damn your soul!

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