

# THE SIN OF COMPROMISING WITH ERROR

Sermon by Donald Townsley

## INTRODUCTION

1. "COMPROMISE" means: "to reach an agreement by concession; agree by yielding; to settle by mutual concessions.
2. It is apparent from the definition that it is sinful to compromise with error.
3. Many want to "adjust" all religious differences by compromise, by making mutual concessions -- "unity-in-diversity".
4. Paul said he never compromised for an hour -- "*To whom we gave place by subjection, no, not for an hour; that the truth of the gospel might continue with you.*-- Gal. 2:5
5. John taught that there is to be NO compromise -- 2 John 9 -11
6. People have a lack of respect for the Bible who insist on compromise.
7. People in error must come to the doctrine of Christ if they desire to please God -- I Cor. 4:6

## I. THERE IS A STANDARD WE MUST GO BY:

1. That standard is the Word of God -- II Tim. 3: 15 - 17; II Pet. 1:3; John 12:43
2. We must NOT ADD to that standard or TAKE AWAY from it -- Rev. 22: 18 - 19; Deut. 4:2
3. David said, "*Therefore I esteem all thy precepts concerning all things to be right; and I hate every false way*" --Psa. 119: 128
4. We are not to go beyond what is written -- I Cor. 4:6
5. We will be judged by the Word of God -- John 12: 48; Rom. 2:16; Rev. 20:12

## II. TO BE SATISFIED WITH LESS THAN THIS STANDARD IS TO COMPROMISE

1. To compromise is to refuse to stand up for the standard -- the Truth -- I Tim. 6:20; Tit. 1: 10 - 11
2. We are taught to STAND UP -- Jude 3; Phil. 1:17; 2 Tim. 4: 2 - 4; Eph. 6: 10 - 18
3. Less than the truth WILL NOT save -- John 8:32; Rev. 22: 18 - 19; Matt. 15:6

## III. LET US NOTICE SOME PREVALENT AREAS WHERE MEN COMPROMISE:

1. In Preaching:
  - (1) Many preachers are tempted to preach so as to bring great crowds and please the people -- Gal. 1:10; Eph. 6:6
  - (2) Crowds mean nothing if you have to compromise the truth to draw them.
  - (3) Pretty, flowery speeches, copied from sectarian books of sermons are not what this "*crooked generation*" needs -- Acts 2:40
  - (4) Men need to be shown they are lost and "*in danger of hell fire*", and they can only be saved by OBEYING THE GOSPEL-- Mk. 16:15 - 16; Rom. 1: 16
  - (5) Preachers are to preach "*all the counsel of God*"-- Acts 20:26
  - (6) They are to "*earnestly contend for the faith*" -- Jude 3
2. In the standard of our DRESS -- II Tim. 2: 9 - 10; Gal. 5:19; Gen. 3: 7, 21
  - (1) Both men and women wear skin-tight jeans or pants that reveal every contour of the body, and shorts -- some are as short as they can get them many times.
  - (2) Women wear dresses that are too short and cut too low, even to worship.
  - (3) Shorts are worn to get to-gether among Christians.

- (4) This lascivious behavior leads to fornication among children of God many times -- I Cor. 6:18
- 3. In the standard for Marriage and Divorce -- Matt. 19:9; 5:32
  - (1) Many compromise on what the Bible teaches on this subject.
- 4. God's word has set a high standard for Attendance -- Heb. 10:25
  - (1) Many fail to attend ALL the services that they could.
  - (2) When we fail to demand that people meet God's standard for Attendance we are compromising.
- 5. God's Word sets a high standard for KNOWLEDGE of the Bible -- 2 Tim. 2: 15; II Pet. 1:5; Heb. 5: 12 - 14; I Pet. 2:2; Acts 20 :32
  - (1) MANY ARE BIBLICALLY ILLITERATE!
    - 1. Many don't "check out" what the preacher says -- Acts 17:11
    - 2. Many cannot give a reason for their hope -- I Pet. 3: 15
    - 3. Many today do not know what is wrong with digressive churches of Christ.
    - 4. Many do not have a clear understanding of the church and its work
    - 5. Many today do not know what is wrong with denominationalism.
      - (1) Denominations are Human in origin; unsound in doctrine; worldly in character; social in practice.
    - 6. Many don't understand the role of women.
- 6. God's word has set a high standard for our manner of live -- Rom. 12: 2; Tit. 2: 11 - 12; I Thess. 5:22; II Tim. 2:22
  - (1) Many members of the church are just like the world:
    - 1. They social drink-- I Pet. 4:13
    - 2. They curse -- Eph. 4:29
    - 3. They love pleasure more than God -- I Tim. 3:4
    - 4. They worship money and possessions -- Matt. 6: 24
    - 5. They lust and commit fornication-- Matt. 5:28
    - 6. They lie -- Eph. 4:25
    - 7. They dress immodestly -- I Tim. 2:9
  - (2) The world can't tell the difference between members of the church and the world -- Col. 4:5
  - (3) When we fail to demand that people not conform to the world, we are compromising.

#### IV. WHAT MUST BE DONE?

- 1. We must recognize the high standard which God's Word has set -- the church must come up to the Standard.
- 2. We must stand for what is right, and stand against what is wrong.
  - (1) We must demand conformity to God's standard and refuse to tolerate compromise.
- 3. We cannot tolerate such attitudes as:
  - (1) "I don't see anything wrong with it" -- even though God's Word condemns it.
  - (2) "Everyone else is doing it" -- even though the Bible says it is wrong.
  - (3) "I know what the Bible says, but..." -- the Bible says it, that settles it !
  - (4) "I don't believe you have to . . ." -- it matters not what you believe about it, but what the Bible says about it counts.

4. Who is to stand against compromise?

- (1) Elders must take a stand and demand conformity to God's Standard, and then lead the congregation in taking action against those who refuse to conform.
- (2) Preachers must stand against all compromise of the truth.
- (3) Members must demand of themselves no less than the standard set by God's Word.

CONCLUSION:

1. Brethren, let us compromise NO truth in the congregation
2. Let us back men who stand up for the truth.
3. Are you here and out of Christ???

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