

Letting

Go...

of COMPROMISE

“Like a muddied spring or a polluted well are the righteous who give way to the wicked.”

—Proverbs 25:26

Do you ever find yourself saying the following statements? “It doesn’t really matter...” “People won’t like me if I don’t join in or agree with them...” “It’s too hard for me...” “I don’t want to create conflict...” “I’ll deal with it later...” “I just want unity with EVERYONE...” Then you’re probably dealing with compromise.

Dictionary.com defines compromise as:

- *(noun)* settlement of difference by mutual concessions; an agreement reached by adjustment of conflicting or opposing claims, principles, etc.
- *(verb)* to settle, to expose or make vulnerable to danger, suspicion, scandal, etc. to make a dishonorable or shameful concession.

Compromise reveals you have a problem with God’s principles and leads to worldly reasoning and opinions. In looking at Psalm 119:1-3, what characteristics are evident of those who do not compromise with evil? _____

Why do we compromise?

- Doubt
- Fear
- Desire to “avoid conflict”
- Trying to please people
- Deep need for acceptance
- Peer pressure

What happens when we compromise?

- Our character is weakened
- The truth of God’s Word becomes cloudy
- We become calloused and lethargic to the things of God
- Our testimony is jeopardized

What warning against compromise is found in James 4:4 regarding friendship with the world?

What does Galatians 5:16-26 have to say about the struggle between the flesh and the Spirit?

What can we learn from Daniel's conviction, determination, and resolve from Daniel 1:8?

Write out what God's Word says about the following areas that are commonly compromised.

Media

Psalm 101:1-3 _____

1 Thessalonians 5:19-22 _____

Morality

1 Corinthians 6:18-20 _____

2 Timothy 2:22 _____

For further study, see the story of David and Bathsheba in 2 Samuel 11.

Belief Systems

John 14:6 _____

What is Paul’s warning to Timothy in 1 Timothy 6:3-6? _____

Money

Matthew 6:24 _____

For further study, see what happened to Ananias and Sapphira in Acts 5:1-11 and God’s conversation with the Israelites regarding tithes and offerings in Malachi 3:6-12.

Parenting

Proverbs 23:13-14 _____

Proverbs 22:6 _____

For further study on parenting, look at Eli and his sons in 1 Samuel 2:12, 22-25, 29 and the story of Rebekah and Jacob in Genesis 27:5-13.

Alcohol

Ephesians 5:18 _____

Romans 14:13-15 _____

Read Proverbs 23:29-35 for additional study on the effects of too much alcohol.

Conversations

Ephesians 4:29 _____

Ephesians 5:3-6 _____

The opposite of compromise is conviction which is defined as “a fixed or firm belief.”

How does James 4:17 relate to the idea of living with conviction? _____

According to Hebrews 3:14, what blessing is found by holding on to conviction? _____

Consequences of Compromise versus Conviction:

When you **COMPROMISE**...

- You lose your platform
- You become desensitized to sin and accept that which is unacceptable
- You gain many shallow relationships
- You look like the world
- You don't feel close to God

When you live with **CONVICTION**...

- You build a reputation of holiness
- You are sensitive to the Holy Spirit and His leading
- You foster deep relationships with like-minded believers
- You shine distinctly different than the world
- You are able approach God with confidence

Read 1 Thessalonians 1:4-7 and contemplate: Are you living out the gospel with deep conviction and are you a godly model for others to follow?

What do you learn from the story of Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego in Daniel 3:16-18?

What encouragement do you find from Joshua's challenge to the people in Joshua 24:14-15?

Wrap up:

I must let go of _____ and live daily with deep _____.

Passage Index (NIV 1984 unless otherwise stated)

Psalm 119:1-3 (NLT) “Joyful are people of integrity, who follow the instructions of the Lord. ²Joyful are those who obey his laws and search for him with all their hearts. ³They do not compromise with evil, and they walk only in his paths.”

James 4:4 “You adulterous people, don’t you know that friendship with the world means enmity against God? Therefore, anyone who chooses to be a friend of the world becomes an enemy of God.”

Galatians 5:16-26 “So I say, walk by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the flesh. ¹⁷For the flesh desires what is contrary to the Spirit, and the Spirit what is contrary to the flesh. They are in conflict with each other, so that you are not to do whatever you want. ¹⁸But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not under the law. ¹⁹The acts of the flesh are obvious: sexual immorality, impurity and debauchery; ²⁰idolatry and witchcraft; hatred, discord, jealousy, fits of rage, selfish ambition, dissensions, factions ²¹and envy; drunkenness, orgies, and the like. I warn you, as I did before, that those who live like this will not inherit the kingdom of God. ²²But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, forbearance, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, ²³gentleness and self-control. Against such things there is no law. ²⁴Those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires. ²⁵Since we live by the Spirit, let us keep in step with the Spirit. ²⁶Let us not become conceited, provoking and envying each other.”

Daniel 1:8 “But Daniel resolved not to defile himself with the royal food and wine, and he asked the chief official for permission not to defile himself this way.”

Psalm 101:1-3 “I will sing of your love and justice; to you, Lord, I will sing praise. ²I will be careful to lead a blameless life—when will you come to me? I will conduct the affairs of my house with a blameless heart. ³I will not look with approval on anything that is vile. I hate what faithless people do; I will have no part in it.”

1 Thessalonians 5:19-22 “Do not quench the Spirit. ²⁰Do not treat prophecies with contempt ²¹but test them all; hold on to what is good, ²²reject every kind of evil.”

1 Corinthians 6:18-20 “Flee from sexual immorality. All other sins a person commits are outside the body, but whoever sins sexually, sins against their own body. ¹⁹Do you not know that your bodies are temples of the Holy Spirit, who is in you, whom you have received from God? You are not your own; ²⁰you were bought at a price. Therefore honor God with your bodies.”

2 Timothy 2:22 “Flee the evil desires of youth and pursue righteousness, faith, love and peace, along with those who call on the Lord out of a pure heart.”

John 14:6 “Jesus answered, ‘I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.’”

1 Timothy 6:3-6 “If anyone teaches otherwise and does not agree to the sound instruction of our Lord Jesus Christ and to godly teaching, ⁴they are conceited and understand nothing. They have an unhealthy interest in controversies and quarrels about words that result in envy, strife, malicious talk, evil suspicions ⁵and constant friction between people of corrupt mind, who have been robbed of the truth and who think that godliness is a means to financial gain. ⁶But godliness with contentment is great gain.”

Matthew 6:24 *“No one can serve two masters. Either you will hate the one and love the other, or you will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve both God and money.”*

Proverbs 23:13-14 *“Do not withhold discipline from a child; if you punish them with the rod, they will not die.¹⁴ Punish them with the rod and save them from death.”*

Proverbs 22:6 (NKJV) *“Train up a child in the way he should go, and when he is old he will not depart from it.”*

Ephesians 5:18 *“Do not get drunk on wine, which leads to debauchery. Instead, be filled with the Spirit...”*

Romans 14:13-15 *“Therefore let us stop passing judgment on one another. Instead, make up your mind not to put any stumbling block or obstacle in the way of a brother or sister.¹⁴ I am convinced, being fully persuaded in the Lord Jesus, that nothing is unclean in itself. But if anyone regards something as unclean, then for that person it is unclean.¹⁵ If your brother or sister is distressed because of what you eat, you are no longer acting in love. Do not by your eating destroy someone for whom Christ died.”*

Ephesians 4:29 *“Do not let any unwholesome talk come out of your mouths, but only what is helpful for building others up according to their needs, that it may benefit those who listen.”*

Ephesians 5:3-6 *“But among you there must not be even a hint of sexual immorality, or of any kind of impurity, or of greed, because these are improper for God’s holy people.⁴ Nor should there be obscenity, foolish talk or coarse joking, which are out of place, but rather thanksgiving.⁵ For of this you can be sure: No immoral, impure or greedy person—such a person is an idolater—has any inheritance in the kingdom of Christ and of God.⁶ Let no one deceive you with empty words, for because of such things God’s wrath comes on those who are disobedient.”*

James 4:17 *“If anyone, then, knows the good they ought to do and doesn’t do it, it is sin for them.”*

Hebrews 3:14 *“We have come to share in Christ, if indeed we hold our original conviction firmly to the very end.”*

1 Thessalonians 1:4-7 *“For we know, brothers and sisters loved by God, that he has chosen you,⁵ because our gospel came to you not simply with words but also with power, with the Holy Spirit and deep conviction. You know how we lived among you for your sake.⁶ You became imitators of us and of the Lord, for you welcomed the message in the midst of severe suffering with the joy given by the Holy Spirit.⁷ And so you became a model to all the believers in Macedonia and Achaia.”*

Daniel 3:16-18 *“Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego replied to him, ‘King Nebuchadnezzar, we do not need to defend ourselves before you in this matter.¹⁷ If we are thrown into the blazing furnace, the God we serve is able to deliver us from it, and he will deliver us from Your Majesty’s hand.¹⁸ But even if he does not, we want you to know, Your Majesty, that we will not serve your gods or worship the image of gold you have set up.’”*

Joshua 24:14-15 *“Now fear the Lord and serve him with all faithfulness. Throw away the gods your ancestors worshiped beyond the Euphrates River and in Egypt, and serve the Lord.¹⁵ But if serving the Lord seems undesirable to you, then choose for yourselves this day whom you will serve, whether the gods your ancestors served beyond the Euphrates, or the gods of the Amorites, in whose land you are living. But as for me and my household, we will serve the Lord.”*