

Compromise!?

You need to make an adjustment to accommodate the views of others. Let us make a truce, find a happy medium, and keep things in balance so we'll all be in agreement. For the sake of unity, let's meet halfway, make mutual concessions, come to an understanding, and settle our differences. If you don't, then you are a trouble-maker and not a team player. This is the mind-set and unspoken rules of many church boards and far too many church members. Their thinking is based on the importance of unity, as perceived by human intellect. Don't rock-the-boat. Don't make waves. Don't say or do anything that's controversial. Don't offend anyone, or cause them to have a guilt trip, lest they leave the church.

What kind of church, church board, pastor, elder, deacon, or Christian leader would submit to this kind of thinking!? A lukewarm-compromiser, who is more afraid of people than he is of God!

Rev.3:15,16- Jesus said: *"I know your deeds; you're neither cold nor hot. I wish you were one or the other. Because you're lukewarm, neither hot nor cold, I'm about to spit you out of my mouth."*

There is something about the flesh that is wanting, when it comes to things of the spirit. Flesh wants to organize and formalize a group setting. Flesh wants to be in control and stay in the comfort zone of smooth sailing. Flesh cries out for unity at any cost. Flesh Fears Faith and Fellowship, thus Formalism. Formalism is an external, ritualistic ceremony that is reserved and proper. It's Religion! Religion is Flesh, expressing itself through man made rules.

Isa. 29:- Lord says: *"These people come near to Me with their mouth & honor Me with their lips, but their hearts are far from Me."*

Their worship of God is made up only of rules taught by men. Religion has a form of godliness but denies its power. Religion has a hollow and deceptive philosophy, which depends on human tradition and basic principles of this world. **Col.2:8.** Religion is an expression of man's desire to control and complicate God's creation.

Today, for many individuals and in many churches, Christianity has become a religion. Men have compromised "True Christianity", preaching a watered-down Gospel for the sake of unity.

Formalism has replaced **Faith**.

Religion has replaced **Relationship**.

Compromise has replaced the **Cross**.

Flesh has replaced **Spirit**.

2 Tim.4:3- *"The time has come when men do not put up with sound doctrine. Instead, to suit their own desires, they gather around them a great number of teachers to say what their itching ears want to hear. They turn their ears away from Truth and turn aside to myths."* I'm talking about compromise in the church, the body of Christ, and in Christianity.

Think about this: A weak man will seek to compromise with a strong man, lest he be overcome. On the other hand, a strong man has no need to compromise with a weak man. And if he does, he will lose his strength. Samson is a good example of that.

Satan is weak – Flesh is weak. Both seek to compromise your Faith in Christ Jesus and the Gospel Message. Why? Because the weaker always seeks to compromise with the stronger for the purpose of defeat!! And they do it in the name of peace and unity!

A great tragedy in churches today is “peer pressure” from passive pastors, deceived deacons, boards in bondage, weak workers, and fearful-followers.

“Peer pressure” to compromise the “Full Gospel Message” in the name of unity and peace. The weak try to defeat the strong. **Who are these strong people!?** Rejecters of Religion! Receivers of Relationship! Rejecters of Formalism! Responders to Faith! Condemn! Compromise! Come to the Cross! Crucify Their Flesh! Walk in the Spirit! They’re in the Word and the Word is in them. Not just the written Logos, but also the spoken Rhema.

Word is Jesus; Jesus is Word;

Praise on their lips!

Prayer on their knees!

Power in their lives!

Jesus on their minds!

They’re not just in church-They are the church-the Body of Christ! They get their marching orders from “The Book” and “The Boss”-Bible and Jesus.

Who is Jesus? **Col.1:15-20-** *“He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation. ¹⁶ For by Him all things were created that are in heaven and that are on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or principalities or powers. All things were created through Him and for Him. ¹⁷ And He is before all things, and in Him all things consist. ¹⁸ And He is the head of the body, the church, who is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, that in all things He may have the preeminence.¹⁹ For it pleased the Father that in Him all the fullness should dwell, ²⁰ and by Him to reconcile all things to Himself, by Him, whether things on earth or things in heaven, having made peace through the blood of His cross.”*

V-18 Jesus is the head of the body, the church. As part of the body of Christ, with Jesus as the Head, is it any wonder that the “Thief, who comes to steal, kill, & destroy”, (Satan) seeks to compromise God’s children, knowing full well that he is the weaker being! On-the-other hand We, as God’s children, being part of the body of Christ, have no need or reason to make any concessions with the Flesh, World, or Satan. That being the case, how is it that the world has come into the church!? The answer is simple: Compromise.

So why do God’s children, being stronger, compromise with the weakness of the world? There are many answers: Deception, Ignorance, Fear-of-man rather than God.

Let's back up to where I started. If a man will not stand-up for Truth within the church when peer-pressure demands compromise, he also won't stand-up for Truth when the world or Satan comes demanding compromise. In today's church there is strong pressure upon leaders to compromise in the name of unity. However, the world is applying even greater pressure upon churches to compromise in the name of tolerance. Ironically, while the world demands tolerance, they themselves, are totally intolerant of Christianity.

Jeremiah 12:5- *"If you have run with the footmen, and they have wearied you, Then how can you contend with horses? And if in the land of peace, in which you trusted, they wearied you, then how will you do in the floodplain of the Jordan?"* **Translation:** If you can't handle small stuff, how are you going to be able to handle big stuff? If you are wishy-washy in church you'll be wishy-washy in the world.

When we think of temptation we often think of the lure of appetite, ambition, silver and gold, or forbidden fruit. In a group situation, such as church, there's a temptation to compromise in lure of acceptance, praise, or friendship. Face it, no one wants to stand alone in a crowd, be different, or be rejected by peers. Flesh wants friendship; World wants tolerance; Jesus wants Relationship & Obedience. A Christian in Fellowship and Obedience with Jesus needs not yield to the will of the world or fall for friendship with the flesh.

God's call to "His Children" in these last days is: to resist evil, stand against worldliness in the church, lift high His banner of Holiness, purity, morality, and truth in the midst of a crooked and perverse generation. Without compromise or watering-down His Word. **First** we must get into a "Right Relationship" with our Redeemer.

How?

1. Get in the Word and Get the Word in us.
2. Get on our knees-with an open heart-open ears-and Listen.
3. Get to know Jesus-intimately-beyond head knowledge-into a "Personal Relationship" And that requires "A Major Change in Life-Style". Shut off the TV-- Stop feeding on the frenzy of filth the world calls family entertainment. What are you Watching? Why? Here's a news flash: Compromise what you look at with your eyes and you will soon become desensitized.

Check this out: Hrs. watching TV?, Hrs. reading Bible?, Hrs. on your knees.?

Get into the Word and get the Word into you. To clarify something: Head knowledge of scripture is a good start and very important, but, it's not enough. It's the foundation, but then we must build on that foundation by getting to know the Bible's Author, "God, Our Heavenly Father." The only way to do that is through a personal relationship with Jesus Christ.

John 14:6- Jesus said: *"I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me. ⁷ "If you had known Me, you would have known My Father also. **V-15** "If you love Me, keep My commandments. ¹⁶ And I will pray the Father, and He will give you another Helper, that He may abide with you forever ¹⁷ the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees Him nor knows Him; but you know Him, for He dwells with you and will be in you. ¹⁸ I will not leave you orphans; I will come to you." **V-26-** "But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in My name, He will teach you all things, and bring to your remembrance all things that I said to you."*

I've often said: We need balance, however, balance is not compromise.

Balance is: The Word and the Spirit working equally in the life of a Believer.

The Word without the Spirit: You dry up.

The Spirit without the Word: You Blow up.

Compromise, as I'm defining it, is a mixture of good and evil; right and wrong; truth and error; hot and cold; = **Lukewarm.**

Compromise: Politics, Bi-Partisan, Diversity, Tolerance, and it's all Evil.

Look and you'll see / Listen and you'll hear.

The world today is demanding, in the name of tolerance and political diversity, that Christians compromise their beliefs. Like a flood, our enemy comes against the "Church & Christianity" with a powerful spirit of dilution. And more recently, a lying spirit. **Isa. 59:19**- *"When the enemy comes in like a flood, The Spirit of the LORD will lift up a standard against him."* (Or you could read it like this: When the enemy comes in, (coma) Like a flood the Spirit of the lord will lift up a standard against him.)

Eccl. 3:7-8- *"A time to keep silence, and a time to **speak**;⁸ A time to love, and a time to hate; A time of **war**, and a time of peace."*

In practicing what I've just preached, I must say to all those in America who call themselves Christians: Now is the time to **Speak** against Evil. Now is the time to **war** against Evil. Like it or not, Christians in America are face to face with Evil in the news media, government, and schools. While God was kicked out of our media, government, and schools, Christians remained silent, and compromising with Evil. Now God's Judgement is about to descend upon America if Christians don't stand up and speak up.

Starting with **2 Cron.7:14**- *"If My people who are called by My name will humble themselves, and pray and seek My face, and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin and heal their land."*

Evil is parading itself as an enlightened society. The world in all its deception is saying in the name of diversity, tolerance, and political correctness, compromise for the sake of "Unity and Peace". If you don't, then you are a narrow-minded, bigoted, mean-spirited, hate-monger.

As a child of God, and Light of the world, I say: I'll not tolerate compromise with evil, mixing the Holy with the Profane. Marriage as ordained by God is between one man and one woman.

Abortion is murder. L.G.B.T.Q. is sin and an affront to a Holy God. For Christians to continue in the sin of silence and compromise is to allow that which is Holy to be overcome by that which is profane.

Politicians don't hear from God, they hear from man, but they need to hear from "The Man of God".

Ezekiel 3:16- *"Now it came to pass at the end of seven days that the word of the LORD came to me, saying,¹⁷ "Son of man, I have made you a **watchman** for the house of Israel; therefore hear a word from My mouth, and give them warning from Me:¹⁸ When I say to the wicked, 'You shall surely die,' and you give him no warning, nor speak to warn the wicked from his wicked way, to save his life, that same wicked man shall die in his iniquity; **but***

his blood I will require at your hand. ¹⁹ Yet, if you warn the wicked, and he does not turn from his wickedness, nor from his wicked way, he shall die in his iniquity; **but you have delivered your soul.**”

“Wake-up, Wake-up, from your stupor of complacency. Your adversary, the devil has grown fat on the lies of political-correctness. Rise up Oh sleepy one, resist the evil agenda while there is still time. I’ve given you My Son, My word, and My Power through My Holy Spirit. Rise up, and go forth to Battle. Take your stand against evil and I will fight for you, says the Lord God!”

This is not politics, This is prophesy! Separation of church and state, the way it’s being used today, is a lie from the pit of hell. The state already dictates to the church and in response, the church is withdrawing inwardly more and more. Churches are becoming “User friendly”. Tickle my ears with good stuff--Love, Joy, Peace, and Prosperity. Folks, a “User-Friendly” church is a compromising church, mixing “God’s Word” with the world for the sake of unity and peace. “God’s Word” is not “User-Friendly”. It’s a “Double-Edged Sword”, It’s about dying to self, being hated by the world, resisting evil, and wrestling against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this age, against spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places. **Eph.6).**

2 Cor.10:3-5- *“For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war according to the flesh. ⁴ For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal but mighty in God for pulling down strongholds, ⁵ casting down arguments and every high thing that exalts itself against the knowledge of God, bringing every thought into captivity to the obedience of Christ.”*

My Point is twofold: In the Church:

1. Stop being Formal—Be Faithful.
2. Stop being Religious—Get a Relationship with Jesus
3. Don’t Compromise – Go to the Cross.
4. Die to self & flesh—Live & walk in the Spirit.

I shall stand for “Gospel Truth”, and if that means standing alone, so be it. But I’m not alone, Jesus Christ via the Holy Spirit is with me. I shall not yield to peer-pressure, rather I’ll be the peer-pressure as I read “God’s Word” Hear God’s Voice, Heed God’s call to action, and move forward under God’s Anointing.

Rev.12:11 *I shall overcome evil “Satan” by the “Blood of the Lamb” “The Word of my Testimony” and “love not my life to the death.”*

We, the “Body of Christ” are stronger: **1John 4:4-** *“You are of God, little children, and have overcome them, because He who is in you is greater than he who is in the world.”*

We have Power when the Holy Spirit comes upon us. **Acts 1:8-** *“But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.”*

Adrian Rogers said: We have no need to accommodate; make a truce; meet halfway; make mutual concessions; or settle our differences with the world, flesh, or evil. **“It is not love and it is not friendship if we fail to declare the whole counsel of God!” It is better to speak Truth that may hurt and heal, than to speak a lie that will comfort and kill.)** I say Amen!

Jn.16:4 But these things I have told you, that when the time comes, you may remember that I told you of them.

1 King 22:14 Micaiah said, *“As the LORD lives, whatever the LORD says to me, that I will speak.”*

Adrian Rogers said: “It may not be **Pleasant**, but I’ll say it. It may not be **Prudent**, but I’ll say it. It may not be **Pleasing**, but I’ll say it, It may not be **Profitable** but I’ll say it, They may **put me in jail**, but I’ll say it, They may **kill me**, but I’ll say it, I may not **get a promotion**, but I’ll say it, **I will not have strings attached to me. They put strings on puppets, but not on Prophets! What God says to me is what I’m going to say**” I say Amen!

“Now to Him who is able to keep you from stumbling, and to present you faultless before the presence of His glory with exceeding joy, to God our Savior, who alone is wise, be glory and majesty, dominion and power, both now and forever. Amen.” **Jude 1:24-25.**

*Sermon preached at CFC on April 2, 2000 by Don Allen