

The Danger of Compromise

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What does compromise mean? Al states compromise means an agreement or settlement of a dispute where each side gives up part of what they want to reach a middle ground. Al then gives an example of a person trying to sell a car. They ask \$3,000, but a buyer asks \$2,000. So, they compromise by agreeing to \$2,500 so the deal can be finalized. We're seeing examples of compromise today. We have government officials trying to make deals dealing with the war in Iran and the war between Russian and Ukraine. They are trying to compromise, but how do you come to an agreement with terrorists and evil governments? They want their cake and eat it too. We compromise on things all the time. However, there can be dangers when it comes to compromising. A couple is ready to go out to eat. One wants to eat Mexican food and the other wants to eat Italian food. They can't agree, so they compromise by eating at a gas station that makes cheap hot dogs. They compromised, but neither enjoyed their food. Not all compromises are good. We always compromise in the secular world and we carry that thought into the Christian realm as well. God calls someone to be a missionary and they compromise by becoming a teacher at a Christian college. Missionaries teach, so being a teacher at a college isn't too far off, or is it? God calls us to be holy. We compromise by saying we'll be holy only when it's convenient to us. That seems fair, or is it? Our human nature likes to compromise, but we are on dangerous ground when we compromise with God. What do I mean by this? Let's take a look at someone who compromised on God's direction in their life.

Let's turn to 1 Kings 11: 26-32 and 37-38 where we read this, "26 Then Jeroboam the son of Nebat, an Ephraimite of Zeredah, Solomon's servant, whose mother's name was Zeruah, a widow, also ^[a]rebelled against the king. 27 Now this was the reason why he ^[b]rebelled against the king: Solomon built the ^[c]Millo, *and* closed up the breach of the city of his father David. 28 Now the man Jeroboam was a valiant warrior, and when Solomon saw that the young man was ^[d]industrious, he appointed him over all the ^[e]forced labor of the house of

Joseph. ²⁹ And it came about at that time, when Jeroboam went out of Jerusalem, that the prophet Ahijah the Shilonite found him on the road. Now ^[f]Ahijah had clothed himself with a new cloak; and both of them were alone in the field. ³⁰ Then Ahijah took hold of the new cloak which was on him and tore it into twelve pieces. ³¹ And he said to Jeroboam, "Take for yourself ten pieces; for this is what the LORD, the God of Israel says: 'Behold, I am going to tear the kingdom away from the hand of Solomon and give you ten tribes' ³² (but he shall have one tribe, for the sake of My servant David and for the sake of Jerusalem, the city which I have chosen from all the tribes of Israel),

³⁷ However I will take you, and you shall reign over all that ^[a]you desire, and you shall be king over Israel. ³⁸ Then it shall be, that if you listen to all that I command you and walk in My ways, and do what is right in My sight by keeping My statutes and My commandments, as My servant David did, then I will be with you and build you an enduring house as I built for David, and I will give Israel to you. (NASB – www.biblegateway.com)

Last week, we talked about King Solomon and how he had allowed idol worship to influence him and he turned away from the Lord even with all his wisdom and knowledge. Since Solomon disobeyed God, Solomon would be punished and Israel would become divided. No longer would Israel be twelve tribes rolled into one. Ten of the tribes would become Israel and two tribes would become one and be called Judah. God did show some mercy and told Solomon it wouldn't happen during his lifetime. Now, the Scripture we just read happens after King Solomon dies. God has Israel become divided. So, God picks Jeroboam to rule the Northern ten tribes of Israel. We see that Jeroboam was a man of standing. In fact, in verse 37, we read that God allows Jeroboam to rule over all that his heart desired. Even though God was in charge and in control, He gave this new kingdom some freedom in leadership for Jeroboam. He had freedom to make choices. It's the same today with us. Christians who believe in Jesus and have confessed their sin to Him have the Holy Spirit. However, the Holy Spirit doesn't force His presence onto us. He allows us to make choices on our own if

we choose so. God does this out of love for us. However, we see with Jeroboam, making choices did require some guidelines. In verse 38, we read that God tells Jeroboam that he still must obey God's commands, walk in obedience, and do what is right in God's eyes. If he does this, his dynasty will endure forever. God just gave Jeroboam a choice here. This goes along with the Scripture we read last week where I asked you to look at during the week. In 2 Peter 1: 3-4 we read, "As we know Jesus better, his divine power gives us everything we need for living a godly life. He has called us to receive his own glory and goodness! And by that same mighty power, he has given us all of his rich and wonderful promises. He has promised that you will escape the decay all around you caused by evil desires and that you will share in His divine nature. (NLT)" Peter tells us to live a godly life and He has called us to receive His own glory and goodness. Yet, God has given us the ability to make the choice to live this godly life. We can make the choice to allow the Holy Spirit to help us live out this holiness of God or not to. So, Jeroboam has a choice to make on obeying all of God's commands or not.

Let's continue with this story and turn to 1 Kings 12: 26-30, where we read this, ²⁶ And Jeroboam said in his heart, "Now the kingdom will return to the house of David. ²⁷ If this people go up to ^[a]offer sacrifices in the house of the LORD in Jerusalem, then the heart of this people will return to their lord, to Rehoboam king of Judah; and they will kill me and return to Rehoboam king of Judah." ²⁸ So the king ^[b]consulted, and he made two golden calves; and he said to ^[c]the people, "It is too much for you to go up to Jerusalem; behold your gods, Israel, that brought you up from the land of Egypt." ²⁹ And he set up one in Bethel, and the other he put in Dan. ³⁰ Now this thing became a sin, for the people went to *worship* before the one as far as Dan. (NASB – www.biblegateway.com)

Jeroboam didn't want Israel to go down to Jerusalem to worship, because he thought some would start supporting Judah instead of Israel, the Northern Kingdom. Instead of going to God about this issue, he decides to compromise with God. God had told him to obey God's commands and worshipping at another place was not authorized by God. This compromise then led to his next step, which was to make two golden calves, one in Bethel and the other in Dan. This was done so the people didn't have to go to Jerusalem to worship God. So, this

new leader breaks the second commandment – you shall not make other gods before me. At the very beginning, he makes the new nation sin against God. Compromising with God can become a dangerous slippery slope. Look how we compromise with God today. I typed in ways to compromise with God on AI and I received this list.

The first is Media and culture: Consuming entertainment or adopting lifestyles that contradict spiritual convictions. Well, we live in a new time period and things are different. This type of thinking creates a problem because God doesn't change. God, Himself, tells us this in Malachi 3: 6, "I am the Lord, and I do not change" (NLT). James tells us this in James 1: 17, "Whatever is good and perfect comes to us from God above, who created all heaven's lights. Unlike them, He never changes or casts shifting shadows" (NLT). We still are not to do anything that goes against God's holiness and the holiness that we are to live out through Jesus Christ. So, what we do is instead of avoiding a cultural item we are to stay away from, we compromise. Well, there is swear words in most of the new shows and sexual stuff, so I'll watch only one or two shows. It's no big deal. Jeroboam thought it was no big deal to make two golden calves for the people to worship. We'll find out a little later how that works out for him. When we compromise with God, it usually gets worse and worse. Before long, all we watch on TV is harmful to our relationship with Jesus. We start to swear more and start to become numb to sin like sexual sin that is always on TV. We could go on and on this, but let's move on.

Next on the list of why we compromise with God was fear of public opinion: Remaining silent on core beliefs to avoid social labels or criticism. One time I had a young person ask me what shows I watched and I told them. They had never heard of these shows like Andy Griffiths or Gunsmoke. I felt like an alien in a strange land. Christians today are having a hard time in dealing with the social labels that are being placed on us – old fogey, a radical, and the list can go on and on. So, we'll compromise our holiness so that we won't be labeled. In 2022, Adam Morris became president of Azusa Pacific University. This school was like many Christian schools over the years that compromised God's truth with human teaching so that the school could blend in more with the culture. Harvard, Yale,

and Princeton were well-known schools that was started to train pastors, but have become secular schools that have strayed from the Truth of God. Adam Morris did not like what he saw and started to get the school back to teaching the Truth of God and the Gospel Message. He states that drifting from a Biblical mission rarely happens quickly; it tends to be the result of many smaller compromises over time (Decision). The main way is loss of the supremacy and primacy of Scripture in everything we do. It is replaced with human intellect which is shaped by the latest human teaching thoughts or theories. This is done so the school can be more accepted by the culture. We compromise and before we know it, we're too far gone. Adam Morris states it's like a ship's navigation, Morris says. "You could be off by one degree when you leave the harbor, and that seems insignificant in the moment, but when you're thousands of miles out of sea, you're actually hundreds of miles off course. (Decision). We have to make up our minds to not to compromise our relationship with Jesus and with His teachings. We have no right to pick and choose what we want to subtract or add to God's Word. If this makes people mad, so be it.

The last thing is Priorities: Sacrificing time for spiritual devotion, community, or service in favor of materialistic pursuits. Many no longer spend time with the Lord on a daily basis. We compromise our time with God with other earthly things. If we do this, doesn't this tell us our love for Jesus has cooled or died? The false teaching now is if we just do social justice or good deeds, we'll be good. Your relationship with Jesus is the most important element in your life because it'll affect everything else in your life.

Plus, compromising with God will cause issues in our life. This is what happened to Jeroboam after he compromised with God in 1 Kings 14: 7-10, ⁷Go, say to Jeroboam, 'This is what the LORD, the God of Israel says: "Because I exalted you from among the people and made you leader over My people Israel, ⁸and tore the kingdom away from the house of David and gave it to you—yet you have not been like My servant David, who kept My commandments and followed Me with all his heart, to do only that which was right in My sight; ⁹you also have done more evil than all who were before you, and you have gone and made for yourself other gods and cast metal images to provoke Me to anger, and

have thrown Me behind your back— ¹⁰ therefore behold, I am bringing disaster on the house of Jeroboam, and I will eliminate from Jeroboam ^[b]every male person, both ^[c]bond and free in Israel, and I will make a clean sweep of the house of Jeroboam, just as one sweeps away dung until it is all gone. (NASB – www.biblegateway.com)”

Compromising God’s truth, I believe truly hurts the Lord. It shows our love for the Lord is limited. We only love Him to a certain point. It shows we don’t love the Lord our God with all our heart, with all our soul, and with our entire mind. Compromising destroyed Jeroboam’s life and it’ll destroy our relationship with Jesus. Jeroboam also hurt the people of Israel because he compromised his salt and light to the people. Compromising with our culture will hurt our salt and light to the people. It will dim the light of Jesus that we are to allow to shine bright in our own life and our salt will become watered down. Allow His Spirit to help you to live for Jesus in the right way for today.

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NLT Life Application Study Bible. Tyndale House Publishers, Inc.: Wheaton, 1996