



## EXPLORE THE BIBLE®

1, 2 Kings Sermon Series

Supports Session 3: Compromised

Sermon Title: "A Compromised Church" (Galatians 1:6-10)

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### Connection to 1 Kings 11:1-13

Solomon compromised God's standards in having over a thousand wives. He did this primarily for political reasons, and it cost him in the end. In Galatians, we find a church that compromised the gospel message. The passage we are studying shows the characteristics of a compromising church as well as a biblical response to the compromise.

### Introduction/Opening

Compromise, be that for an individual or a church, is more of a process than an event. If this is true, then what are some signs of a church that is in the process of compromising and what are biblical responses to the compromise? Galatians 1:6-10 will answer these questions for us.

### Outline

#### 1. Characteristics of a Compromising Church

**a) A compromising church turns from Christ (v. 6).** Paul, the author of this letter, was not happy with the church at Galatia. When Paul would write a letter to a church, he would typically open with a word of welcome and encouragement. He did not with this church. Instead, he communicated that he was amazed that they had so quickly turned away from Christ and were embracing a false gospel.

The phrase "turning away" is pivotal to understanding this verse. It shows a voluntary choice or act. It would be like a soldier going AWOL (absent without leave). The church had chosen to walk away. Paul then goes on to say that they had walked away from Christ who called them.

**b) A compromising church embraces a counterfeit (v. 6).** Paul indicated that the church of Galatia was turning to a different gospel. The word *turning* indicates a habitual act as opposed to a one-time event. Turning to a false gospel had become the norm for the church at Galatia.

A study of the word translated *different* points to a counterfeit. Something that is counterfeit is close to the real thing, but it does have slight differences. The best way to detect a counterfeit is to be an expert in the real thing. For the church to avoid detect a counterfeit, the church must be a student of God's word.

**c) A compromising church allows troubling teachers (v. 7).** One outcome of turning from Christ and embracing a counterfeit message is that troubling teachers are consistently creating discord within the church family. Paul used two words, troubling and distort, to highlight this fact.

Do you remember the old washing machines that had an agitator in the middle? The whole goal was to swirl things around and around. This is an accurate word picture that describes *troubling* and *distort*. Both words show a continual action as a direct result of teachers proclaiming a false gospel. Compromise does not lead to harmony, but rather a continued state of agitation within the life of the church.

## 2. Our Response to Compromise

**a) Stand for the gospel (v. 8-9).** Paul did not hide his feelings about false teachers proclaiming a false gospel. He told the church at Galatia that anyone proclaiming a false gospel should be cursed. The word *curse* means to devote one to destruction. In case the church missed it the first time in verse 8, Paul said the same thing again in verse 9.

The implication of proclaiming destruction of a false gospel is to stand squarely and devotedly upon the truth of the gospel of Jesus Christ. Humanity is without hope apart from this truth and today's church would be wise to heed the command that Paul gave the church at Galatia to reject any other message outside of Christ and Christ alone.

**b) Strive to please God (v. 10).** We are either striving to please people or be a bond servant of Christ. We cannot be both. Paul's commitment was to serve Jesus actively and consistently, even if others did not like or appreciate this. If we are to avoid compromise, we would be wise to follow his lead and be bond servant of Christ.

## Conclusion

Compromise typically does not come all at once. Solomon compromised and the nation of Israel suffered. Churches can find themselves in compromising positions too. The key to avoiding compromise is to know and be committed to the truth. This is not a commitment to a set of facts, but rather to a person and that is Jesus Christ. Do you know Him personally? If not, do not leave today without Him. If you do know Him, is there compromise in your life? If yes, heed the message from God's Word today, return to the gospel message and strive to be a bond servant of Christ.

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