



CELL GUIDE

TOPIC The Unnoticed Compromise

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THEME Contending for Your Faith

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MESSAGE SUMMARY

Contending for Your Faith

As we move on from the themes of Prayer and Spiritual Warfare, we now look at how we are called to contend for our faith.

It is impossible to accept Christ without forsaking the world. Ps Darren looks at how compromises to our faith may have crept in unnoticed, and the types of compromises that we may have unwittingly fallen to. He guides us on how to examine ourselves to make sure that our faith has not been compromised, and how to identify the times when we need to guard against these compromises.

The Unnoticed Compromise

While the false teachings in the time of Jude referred to people within the church who by their words or actions may have encouraged others to compromise instead of contend for the faith, the reality of today means that such teachings could be easily available through the internet and not just in church.

THE CAMOUFLAGE OF COMPROMISE

We also need to be wary. The very nature of these compromises, unnoticed as it were, might well mean that it is *our very selves* who, by our words or actions, may be leading others to compromise their faith. And that compromise might look very similar to a contending faith. What then, might compromise look like?

Here are four pictures of Christians for us to consider:

- a. **The Carnal Christian** does what he wants, regardless of what God wants. He may not come across as rebellious, and may not explicitly reject God's will for his own. Instead, he may delay acting on God's commands, or perhaps give reasons why the time is not right. But the bottom-line is that God's will does not feature very strongly in his life.
- b. **The Bargaining Christian** requires that God works for him first before he would even consider working for God. So long as God gives him what he wants, he is happy to 'repay' God by doing a little of what God wants. He may not state his bargain so explicitly, but may instead choose to dwell on how he is unable to free up his time, money, or resources, until God gives him more.

- c. **The Controlling Christian** gives God what God wants but expects repayment in return. He gives and serves not out of gratitude, but out of an expectation that God will give him what he wants.

In these three cases thus far, the common theme is that all of them seek their own good. Whether it is seeking their good by ignoring God and championing themselves or seeking their good by requiring God bless them before, or as a result of, their service. The posture is of self-centredness. Whereas we should all know that we are all called to die to ourselves so that others may benefit and God may be glorified.

- d. **The Mature Christian** gives God what God wants regardless of what he himself might want. He understands that God has already given him everything and serves out of love and gratitude with the purpose of glorifying God.

2. THE CONSEQUENCE OF COMPROMISE

When we seek what we want instead of what God wants, when we place ourselves in the center instead of placing God in the center, Jude tells us that we run the risk of compromising in the following three areas:

- a. **The Compromise of Unbelief:** When we expect God to work to benefit us instead of recognising that we are all serving to glorify Him, there are going to be times of disappointment when we may not fully understand what God is calling us to do and cannot see how we benefit from it. And so, instead of trusting God in faith, recognising that the wilderness that we may be in is not the end and believing in God to lead us to the promised land, we choose our own way and sin in unbelief.
- b. **The Compromise of Rebellion:** When we are unable to trust that God is sovereign and has meaningfully placed authority over us and means for us to submit to it, then we will find it difficult to submit to authority and constantly think ourselves better than others. We follow and submit only when it is convenient or when we agree, and think ourselves better than those who have been called to lead us. We rebel not only against earthly authority, but also against the heavenly authority that has placed them over us.
- c. **The Compromise of Sexual Immorality:** When we seek our own pleasure and satisfaction over all else, we see little reason why we should be denying ourselves and fighting the flesh. We see indulgence in earthly pleasures as our right and make excuses for our sexual immorality. Instead of fleeing to God when we are tempted or when our defences are low due to times of stress or marital void, we instead use these as excuses to justify our sin.

Conclusion

In conclusion, we are all called to contend for our faith and be wary of compromise. We must recognise that, as we live in a world that is hostile to God, these compromises may come quietly and creep up on us unnoticed.

As we recognise and acknowledge that our lives are not lived for ourselves but for Christ, that He alone is worthy of all glory and praise, then we will be awake and alert to the quiet compromises that endanger our faith.

QUESTIONS

1. What are the four types of Christians as shared by Ps Darren? Have you, at one point or another in your Christian life, been one of the first three types? Share your journey.

2. What are the three types of compromise that was shared? Why do you think that these compromise our faith?

3. What are some of your current struggles? Share with others and spend time praying for one another.

Appendix

(Questions extracted from Ps Darren's sermon for reflection and further discussion)

The Compromise of Rebellion

- Do my friends know me as someone who submits himself to authority?
- Do I only follow orders when I agree with them?
- Do I think I know better most of the time?
- Do I often speak ill about the government, my boss or the church leadership to my family?
- Do I expect others to submit to me but yet I find it difficult to submit to my leaders?

The Compromise of Sexual Immorality

- Is my mind pure?
- Do I give in to sexual lust?
- Have I looked upon another person with lust at work, in school or in the church in the last 7 days?
- Will you let me email your internet history in the past 1 week to your parents, spouse or cell leader?