

THE SIN OF COMPROMISE WEEKS 14 & 15 PART I

Compromise, according to Webster's Dictionary is "to adjust by concession. To expose to risk, suspicion, or disrepute; to compromise one's reputation," among other definitions. It seems that the world today is full of compromise, even in the Body of Christ, His church, you and me. We are constantly bombarded with the message of diversity, acceptance of all lifestyles, immoral behavior. If we speak out against these blights on the essence of Holiness, we are deemed bigots, self-righteous, judgemental. Little by little, our sensitivity to sin is eroded, as we watch more and more programs or go to movies with "just a little" cussing or nudity or murder. Or we share a rumor about someone and call it a prayer request. Maybe we find ourselves in a situation that we know is not pleasing to God or inappropriate for a child of His, but we fear man more than we fear God. So----we COMPROMISE. Sisters, these things ought not to be so! Now let me say to you, before we delve deeper into this quagmire, that I am chief among sinners! In no way am I pointing a finger at someone else, as if to say I never compromise. I know I do, and I hate it! To say, "we all compromise, that no one can be perfect, that it is all grace", is true. But we are not let off the hook in our accountability to not compromise the truth as believers in God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit. So let's talk about it and get the elephant out of the closet.

When we accepted Jesus Christ as Savior, and received His forgiveness for our sins, we were washed clean, pure as the driven snow. We were born again and given new life in Him, destined for greatness in Him. We immersed ourselves in the Word; God was all we ever needed or wanted; the fire that burned inside was hot and exciting and it was all for Him! But as time went on, the cares and worries of the world came and stole the word away; and little by little the fire faded and the embers burn low. Our minds began to wander to things of the world and the flesh and it all looked good and exciting. Then death set in because our minds were set on the flesh, things of the world that thrill and excite, but kill and destroy. I am one who is passionately opposed to performance based Christianity. You know, the one which says we must do this, or do that, or not do this, or not do that, in order to be acceptable and holy to God. It is something I have struggled with all of my life, to be or do a certain way in order to gain not only God's approval, but man's also. This is a destructive, evil, self-centered way of

thinking. However, there is a standard that we are called to as children of God that has been eroded over time; but we are still called to that standard as Christians.

Back to the truth that all our sins are covered by grace; that is true, but it is not a license to sin that grace may abound.

Read Romans 5:19-21 How will the many who are made sinners be made righteous? _____

What abounds more where sin abounds? _____

Read Romans 6:1-2 Because grace abounds more than sin, should we sin so that we can receive more grace? _____

Read vv.3-6 According to verse 6, our old man was crucified with Christ when we became His children. What was the result of our being crucified with Him? _____

Have you ever really pondered what it means that the "body of sin is 'rendered inoperative', that we should no longer be slaves of sin"? That, my sisters, is REAL freedom!

Read v.7 See what I mean? We are really and truly free from sin! It has no hold on us. It is rendered inoperative!

Read v. 8-11 In the New King James, the word "reckon" is used in reference to our being dead to sin. Reckon is rendered "resolutely trust", so it could rightly read "Likewise, you also, resolutely trust yourselves to be dead indeed to sin, but alive to God in Christ Jesus our Lord." It could be said that we still sin because we don't truly believe that we are free from sin and alive to Christ. Do you agree? _____

Now that is not the whole reason we sin. We sin because there is only One Who is sinless and perfect, and that is Jesus Christ our Lord. But we have a responsibility to make a choice NOT to sin, to seek to 'be Holy as He is Holy.' There are choices to make, resolutions to live by, by the grace of God.

Read vv. 12-13 We are to choose to live righteously, not giving ourselves over to sin. Contrary to being legalistic and full of the Law, this is freedom if we truly grasp verse 14.

Write v.14 _____

We are not under the ruling of sin, but of what? _____

Now, go back to James and read James 4:7-8

What does James tell us to do? _____

When we submit to God and resist the devil, we draw strength and grace from Him to not compromise His standards for us and live a watered down

gospel in our lives. James proceeds with a long list of do's and don'ts and right in the middle of that list are some of the most beautiful words in the chapter.

Read v.10 He tells us He will lift us up when we humble ourselves before Him! In the Greek, "lift" is rendered *to issue, to bring out, come(go, take) forth(out)* So when we humble ourselves in the face of sin or compromise and submit to our King, he will bring us out, bring us forth, take us out, of the sin! Again, it is all by His grace that we are free NOT to compromise and sin.

There are times when the thing drawing us in to its web of deceit and destruction is just too tempting. So we take the bait and we fall. Then the blame game starts. Things come out of our mouths such as, "I just don't understand. I prayed and asked God to help me to not fall, but He didn't stop me. Why wouldn't He help me if I asked Him to?" There is a difference in submitting to God, humbling ourselves before God and seeking His help with a problem, and expecting Him to be a genie in a bottle that we can bring out on a whim when we need something. God gives us free will choice, and He desires that our choices be from the heart. We are all like Paul when he spoke of his struggle to do the right things.

Read Romans 7:15-25. Like Paul, as God's children we hate the sins we commit and we long for our hearts to be pure and holy. Christians can always be drawn into the ways of the world, have worldly thoughts, and compromise our beliefs. But we can't stay there for long without being miserable and full of unrest. If one can, and is not bothered by his sinful choices, then odds are that he/she does not know God.

Sadly, the church has had much compromise eek in and a bit at a time we have believed the lies that God's word is not applicable and realistic for today. But ladies, we are called to a higher standard and we must step up to the line or the world will have no example of the truth being lived out in God's people. It is time we stand up and speak out against the compromise that easily entangles us, fearing God's wrath more than man's lack of approval. If He is Who He says He is, and He is, and if we have put our faith and trust in Him, then why, oh why, do we not stand up for what is right and true? "For what I am doing, I do not understand. For what I will to do, that I do not practice; but what I hate, that I do." Romans 7:15! There will always be a war within, good against evil. But as His kids, He will give us the power to overcome the things of the flesh and the tendencies to compromise. We are new creatures and as such we should live like it.

Read I Corinthians 6:9-10 Write the sins that are listed in this passage.

What will those who live these sins not inherit?

Let's look at what these things are.

1. fornicators: a whoremonger, a prostitute
2. idolators: an image(i.e. for worship); a heathen god, or the worship of such.
3. adulterers: those who are married and have sex with someone other than their spouses; any lewd or unchaste act or thought
4. homosexuals: sodomite; abuser of oneself with mankind
5. sodomites: male devotees(by prostitution) to licentious idolatry---
sodomites, unclean
6. thieves: a stealer
7. covetous: desiring more; eager for gain
8. drunkards: sot; from the word meaning 'to drink to intoxication', i.e. get drunk
9. reviler: abusive; railer
10. extortioners: swindlers

Read the rest of the story!!!! V.11

What happened to those who once were these types of sinners?

You were _____, but you were _____, but you were _____ in the name of the _____ and by the _____ of our _____.

If those adjectives describe who you and I once were, when we came to Him we were washed clean and sanctified by the blood of the Lamb! Before that, we had no hope of heaven, no hope of ever inheriting the kingdom of God. Now we do, and we ought to live like we do. **WE ARE WASHED! WE ARE SANCTIFIED! WE ARE JUSTIFIED! THAT IS WHO WE ARE!**

There is now no room for compromise, no room for watering down the word, no room for sugar coating sin. We won't live this way all of the time, just like Paul talked about; but we can also do as the prodigal son did when he realized his grave sin against his father: he came home running, running into the arms of his father in total repentance! When we too, run home, just like the son's earthly father, our heavenly father will take us up in His arms, He will wash us clean, celebrate over our repentant hearts, and send us out again to live for Him!

Maybe you are not sure if you live in compromise to the truth of the word and its standards. Maybe you are unaware of those things that keep you from living as a victorious, committed, loyal child of God. If you ask Him to show you where you need washing, He will show you. Then He'll do the washing when you ask for it. We have discussed this before, I know. But it must be brought to light again. The days are short until His return and there is too much work to be done for us to waste time living in sin and compromise. Read Ephesians 5:1-7 In your own words, summarize what the Lord is telling us through Paul, instructing how to live as "followers of Christ."

Read vv.8-12 What were we at one time? _____

But what are we now? _____

How are we to walk? _____

What are we NOT to have fellowship with? _____

Instead, what are we to do with them? _____

Read vv.13-17 Again, write in your own words what God is teaching us about walking in His light. _____

This passage is a clear picture of not compromising the light that lives inside of us, then going a step beyond and exposing the darkness that would seek to drive out the light. **NO COMPROMISE!**

The following is a list of scriptures that tell us our position in the world as Christians. Please read them and allow the Holy Spirit to speak to you through His word. Jot down any thoughts that you may have as He speaks to you.

John 15:19

Matthew 5:13-16

James 1:27

Romans 12:2

Galatians 6:14

John 17:18

I John 5:4-5

To close this lesson, I am including a statement of commitment that was given to me by someone I love with all of my heart. When he gave his all to Jesus, this was his commitment to Him and the world that he wanted to live his life for his Savior rightly. May we all have such conviction and dedication to God and His truth!

FELLOWSHIP OF THE UNASHAMED

I AM A PART OF THE "FELLOWSHIP OF THE UNASHAMED." THE DIE HAS BEEN CAST. THE DECISION HAS BEEN MADE. I HAVE STEPPED OVER THE LINE, I WON'T LOOK BACK, LET UP, SLOW DOWN, BACK AWAY OR BE STILL.

MY PAST IS REDEEMED, MY PRESENT MAKES SENSE AND MY FUTURE IS SECURE. I'M FINISHED AND DONE WITH LOW LIVING, SIGHT WALKING, SMALL PLANNING, SMOOTH KNEES, COLORLESS DREAMS, TAMED VISIONS, MUNDANE TALKING, CHEAP GIVING, AND DWARFED GOALS.

I NO LONGER NEED PRE-EMINENCE, PROSPERITY, POSITION, PROMOTIONS, PLAUDITS, OR POPULARITY. I DON'T HAVE TO BE RIGHT, FIRST, TOPS, RECOGNIZED, PRAISED, REGARDED, OR RWARDED. I NOW LIVE BY FAITH, LEAN ON HIS PRESENCE, LOVE WITH PATIENCE, LIVE BY PRAYER, AND LABOR WITH POWER.

MY FACE IS SET, MY GAIT IS FAST, MY GOAL IS HEAVEN, MY ROAD IS NARROW, MY WAY IS ROUGH, MY COMPANIONS ARE FEW, MY GUIDE IS RELIABLE, MY MISSION IS CLEAR. I CANNOT BE BOUGHT, COMPROMISED, DETOURED, LURED AWAY, TURNED BACK, DELUDED OR DELAYED. I WILL NOT FINCH IN THE FACE OF SACRIFICE, HESITATE IN THE PRESENCE OF ADVERSITY, NEGOTIATE AT THE TABLE OF THE ENEMY, PONDER AT THE POOL OF POPULARITY, OR MEANDER IN THE MAZE OF MEDIOCRITY.

I WON'T GIVE UP, SHUT UP, LET UP, UNTIL I HAVE STAYED, STORED UP, PRAYED UP, PAID UP, AND SPOKEN UP FOR THE CAUSE OF CHRIST. I AM A DISCIPLE OF JESUS CHRIST. I MUST GO TILL HE COMES, GIVE TILL I DROP, PREACH ALL I KNOW, AND WORK TILL HE STOPS ME. AND WHEN HE COMES FOR HIS OWN, HE WILL HAVE NO PROBLEM RECOGNIZING ME.

MY BANNER IS CLEAR: I AM A PART OF THE "FELLOWSHIP OF THE UNASHAMED."