



The Crisis of Compromise

“Now Solomon made a treaty with Pharaoh king of Egypt, and married Pharaoh's daughter...” (1 Kings 3:1).

Ever wondered how we can avoid dangerous compromise in our day? How can we live with one-hundred-percent-commitment to Jesus Christ in a world gone astray? Check out the fall and disillusionment of Solomon. It began with a chain of spiritual compromises, and one major link of this chain included him marrying the daughter of the king of Egypt – the Pharaoh's offspring. Man, we all must watch who we allow into our inner circle of friendship.

Having carnal people (who might even say they serve your God) or having lost people as close friends can really pull any of us down fast. Christian, the cost of choosing the wrong best friends can be very high and it can affect your ministry for years. Take it from me, you can't afford it. Your ministry potential will largely be related to who you allow into your close circle of friendship. My old pastor, Chuck Smith used to say, *“You can learn the easy way by taking heed to the Scriptures and the Holy Spirit or you can learn the hard way by choosing on your own.”* Too often, I have learned the hard way because things (like in a certain relationship) merely looked so *“of God.”* Sometimes it has simply taken me couple of years of keeping my eyes open and proper biblical evaluation to figure things out.

But why did Solomon compromise? How could he do such a thing? Solomon did it because it seemed so commonsensical to him. Personally, I can't imagine the kind of temptations that a ruler with his high position could face, but it would appear that Solomon wanted to establish a political alliance with Egypt. Maybe you've desired closeness with Egypt (in the Bible Egypt typifies the world system)? Maybe he was copying the pattern of other rulers back then, in doing this type of thing? Maybe he wanted to insure that his people would enjoy safety from the attacks of other nations. In any event, Solomon was basically "yoking" himself unequally with a wrong close friend - a nonbeliever who served other gods. What a bummer to waste years like that! God told the Jewish people not to intermarry with the other nations. Really, this was not a petty racial issue; it was a big spiritual issue. For their own good, God jealously didn't want His children (the Israelites) aligning themselves with idolaters -- lovers of false gods. Doing this is so destructive even in our day! God knew that their hearts would be detoured away from Him and what was best for them. We all need to beware, and carefully take heed to God's Word, because this could happen to any of us. The Bible says, *“Therefore let him who thinks he stands take heed lest he fall”* (1 Cor. 10:12 nkj). For sure, you want to run

this race right, with friends who love the Lord 100%! You want to run the race with godly, fruit-bearing people who aren't out to come down hard on you or religiously control you. You want to run with people who consistently exhibit humility, love, joy and maturity not with grace-killers like the Pharisees were. You want church leaders who desire to seek the Lord in prayer with you and want to help you grow. Sure, this would only be good for your whole family, as together; you witness and testify of God's tender loving care.

If you are single in Jesus, you really have the greatest close Friend who will never do you wrong! You have the ultimate Partner! And if you are called by Him to one day be married to another Christian, you should pray for and wait on that fully-committed, godly man or woman that the Lord will bring into your life with His precise timing.

Remember this: they need to love Jesus more than they love you and you need to love Jesus more than you love them. Put Christ first! You will want to edify each other and diligently seek Jesus together. You can always be sure that Jesus would never want you romantically involved with a person who does not believe or who is vertically half-committed.

The Bible tells us, ***"Don't team up with those who are unbelievers. How can goodness be a partner with wickedness? How can light live with darkness? What harmony can there be between Christ and the Devil? How can a believer be a partner with an unbeliever?"*** (2 Cor. 6:14–15 nlt).

"You are not the same as those who do not believe. So do not join yourselves to them" (ncv).

In the race of faith that God has put us in, you want to give it your ALL as you run with those who are going in the same direction that you are. If you are a married Christian, both you and your mate will aggressively be running toward the Lord, and His specific plan and purpose for your lives.

But Solomon didn't hold fast to this principle. He teamed up with a lady who did not share his faith or his God. More problems followed as they always will. Maybe you've been pulled down by the influence and problems that come from linking up with compromisers or unbelievers? Come to the Bible Jesus ...who never compromised. Come today through repentance and simple honest faith and let Him write the final chapters of your life and ministry.

Maybe you know of someone who is being pulled under by sin and compromisers? Listen, our rescue efforts may not seem significant, but God can use them for His glory!

D. L. Moody once told the story of a man who was crossing the Atlantic by ship. He was terribly seasick and confined to his cabin. One night he heard a faint cry "*Man overboard*" but on such a big vessel, he felt that there was nothing he could do to help.

Then he said to himself, *“I can at least put my lantern in the porthole.”* He struggled to his feet and hung the light so it would shine out into the darkness.

The next day he learned that the person who was rescued said, *“I was going down in the dark night for the last time when someone put a light in a porthole. As it shone on my uplifted hand, a sailor in a lifeboat saw me and soon grabbed my hand to pull me in.”*

Every Christian boldly holding forth Christ’s light, will help accomplish God’s purpose on this earth, and will thus glorify the Savior. Trust Jesus to use you in helping the perishing, the compromisers and those hurt by them. He loves us all the same.

Have Kurt’s fishing devos blessed you? Click on the “Contact” button and let him know!

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