

COMPROMISING AND CONFORMING OR CONVICTION?

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“I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service. 2 And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God.” Romans 12:1 & 2.

“But Daniel purposed in his heart that he would not defile himself with the portion of the king's meat, nor with the wine which he drank: therefore he requested of the prince of the eunuchs that he might not defile himself.” Daniel 1:8

I would like to speak this morning and next week on the subject of 'Compromising and Conforming or CONVICTION? I will be addressing my message to those who name the name of Christ and to those who sit outside Christ this morning, may God be pleased to stir up your hearts to consider serving King Jesus, that is, that you would bow to the knee to Him and own Him as your Lord and Savior. May God also be pleased to allow some of His holy crumbs to fall off His sanctified table and find its way into your heart! This story of Daniel is one of the best stories in the Bible that has strengthened many Christian's since it was written, but please bear this in mind, if Daniel had compromised, we would never have had this story, or maybe even the book of Daniel. I have 4 things I want to share with you from this:

- I. Daniel's Character Considered.**
- II. Daniel's Conviction Challenged.**
- III. Daniel's Commitment Contagious.**
- IV. Daniel's Continual Countenance.**

This morning is just my introduction to my sermon, I doubt it that we will even get to our first point. I want to basically establish a good solid foundation for this very important subject that is needful for our day and time. So let's relax and benefit from our introduction this morning. I want to introduce this topic to you with ease and not feel as though I have to race through this to get to my 4 points. To those who do name the name of Christ we don't have to play word games this morning, you clearly know what I mean when I speak on compromising, conforming or CONVICTION. All of us at one point or another have been challenged to compromise what we know to be godly virtues and beliefs. We have been challenged to conform to this world's secular humanistic philosophy which is diametrically opposed to the Bible. How often since the fall of man has Satan pipe into the ears of the redeemed, has God said? Has God really said that, come on, you're just being too religious, you have a holier than thou attitude, too legalistic, loosen up and roll with the punches, it not going to hurt anyone. Come on just have fun, its ok, everybody says that it ok, don't worry, everybody is doing it, just do it, relax and slack off a bit... You're just too narrow, live a little.

Whether at home, at work, at play or anywhere else we have all been challenge to compromise our Christian principles! We are not the first nor shall we be the last to be challenge to compromise the things of God and as the saying goes, “If you don’t stand for something you’ll fall for anything.”

It takes a strong person to overcome these challenges and to take a stand for godly Biblical principles. We will be put in various situations that we have to make a choice of either compromising in conforming to the world’s standard, or to take a stand for God. When we are put in these situations or choices, it is imperative that we make decisions that will honor and glorify our God. The choices we make at the cross road of life will determine how God will use us; it will determine our usefulness in His kingdom. As we walk in our Christian pilgrimage there will be many temptations that will assault us at to whether we will make the right choice or make the right decision. When God saved us and we were birth into His Kingdom, we laid hold of Christ by faith we gave Him our allegiance and pledge to follow Him, to take up the cross and to deny ourselves. So when these times come and they will, we shall either decide to cast our lot with God and count the cost or we will compromise those principles that we have given our pledge and our allegiance to fulfill. We will either despise the compromise and side with God or we will give in to the compromise and despise the principles of God, there is no middle ground. Christ’s own words from the Sermon of the Mount, Matthew 6:24, “*No man can serve two masters: for either he will hate the one, and love the other; or else he will hold to the one, and despise the other. Ye cannot serve God and mammon.*” Turn to that glorious chapter of faith in Hebrews 11 where says in verse 13, “*These all died in faith, not having received the promises, but having seen them afar off, and were **persuaded of them**, and **embraced them**, and **confessed** that they were strangers and pilgrims on the earth.*” There are some precious things that stand out in this verse:

- These all died in faith.
 - Not having received the promises
 - Seeing them afar off.
1. They were persuaded of them.
 2. They embraced them.
 3. They confessed them.

These three things stood out in their lives that made them salt and light to a dark dying world. Being a Christian is not just making some profession or saying I’m a Christian. Being a true bona fide Christian is being a FOLLOWER of Jesus Christ! It’s not just making a decision for Christ, it’s not saying some sinners prayer, it’s not I’ve accepted Jesus; NO it is FOLLOWING THE LORD JESUS CHRIST!

1. If you name the name of Christ this morning, are you persuaded of the great truths and promises of God found in this precious book?
2. If you are persuaded, do you embrace them?

3. Are you willing to confess them before others in word and actions?

If not, then don't call yourself a Christian!

Can you as an individual Christian personalized these precious beliefs with a holy conviction and bind them upon the tables of your hearts? Proverbs 3:3, "Let not mercy and truth forsake thee: bind them about thy neck; write them upon the table of thine heart." Can you say with me?

1. I WILL BE PERSUADED OF THE TRUTHS OF THE BIBLE!
2. I WILL EMBRACE THE TRUTHS OF THE BIBLE!
3. I WILL CONFESS THE TRUTHS OF THE BIBLE!

I'm not asking your lip service, but for a willing heart, to serve the Living and True God. 1 Chronicles 28:9, "And thou, Solomon my son, know thou the God of thy father, and serve **him with a perfect heart and with a willing mind**: for the LORD searcheth all hearts, and understandeth all the imaginations of the thoughts: if thou seek him, he will be found of thee; but if thou forsake him, he will cast thee off for ever." May God help us to conquer compromise and to take a stand for our Lord Jesus Christ! May God grace us to be strong Christians and not be weak compromising vacillating Christians which bring a reproach to the name of God! May our great God give us a hearing ear and a willing heart this morning to have a sanctified holy conviction in our everyday live? Daniel gives us an insight to some of these things that are necessary for us to emulate to help us in our Christian pilgrimage.

As mentioned before our Christianity should be defined by these two phrases:

1. **WE WILL!**
2. **WE WILL NOT!**

- Joshua 24:15, "And if it seem evil unto you to serve the LORD, **choose you this day whom ye will serve**; whether **the gods** which your fathers served that were on the other side of the flood, or the gods of the Amorites, **in whose land ye dwell**: but **as for me and my house, WE WILL serve the LORD.**"

Will you serve the gods of this world which are many or serve the Living and True God?

- Daniel 3:15-18, "Now if ye be ready that at what time ye hear the sound of the cornet, flute, harp, sackbut, psaltery, and dulcimer, and all kinds of musick, ye fall down and worship the image which I have made; well: but if ye worship not, ye shall be cast the same hour into the midst of a burning fiery furnace; and who is that God that shall deliver you out of my hands? 16 **Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, answered** and said to the king, O Nebuchadnezzar, **we are not careful to answer thee in this matter.** 17 If it be so, our God whom we serve is

*able to deliver us from the burning fiery furnace, and he will deliver us out of thine hand, O king. 18 But if not, **be it known unto thee, O king, that WE WILL NOT serve thy gods, nor worship the golden image which thou hast set up.***

Will you give in and bow down to the gods of this world or say like the 3 Hebrew children, WE WILL NOT? Every where you turn there is a golden image challenging you to bow down to it. What will you do?

- Just because this world and society accepts the homosexual gay agenda: WE WILL NOT! (The world raises the golden image of homosexual agenda.)
- Just because this world and society accepts marriage between 2 men or 2 women: WE WILL NOT! God created Adam and Eve not Adam and Steve.
- Just because this world and society accepts fornication, as long as it is safe sex: WE WILL NOT!
- Just because this world and society accepts a couple living together: WE WILL NOT!
- Just because this world and society accepts Darwinian evolution: WE WILL NOT!
- Just because this world and society accepts religion and ecumenicalism: WE WILL NOT!
- Just because this world and society accepts abortion: WE WILL NOT!

We can go on and on with different issues of our day, my point is, your Christianity will be challenge and what will you do? You still want to be a Christian, it is going to cost you; you will be constantly put on the spot as to whether you will compromise or take a stand with conviction.

We are either walking with God or walking according to the course of this world. There is a narrow way and a broad way where everything and anything goes: Matt. 7:13 & 14, *“Enter ye in at the strait gate: for wide is the gate, and broad is the way, that leadeth to destruction, and many there be which go in thereat: 14 Because strait is the gate, and narrow is the way, which leadeth unto life, and few there be that find it.”*

Again, what amazing conviction by Joshua and the 3 Hebrew children! No compromise, no vacillating, but genuine Holy Conviction seasoned with commitment and glorious character. Is this not what we want to emulate, is this not how we want to be, is this not how we want to live? Isn't this what we want to be persuaded of? Isn't this what we want to embrace? Isn't this what we want to confess? I don't know about you, but I know this is what I want and whether no one else might want it, I WANT IT. The master is calling and wants us to cast our lot with HIM! This is not some rah-rah speech to motivate you some how. As an ex-coach, I use to love to give a passionate pre-game speech to get my players and get them all pumped up and ready for the game. I'm not trying to pump you up, I'm just reminding you of what you have pledge in following KING JESUS! Matthew 16:24, *“Then said Jesus unto his disciples, If any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow me.”* This is the whole

essence of Christianity, not making some decision to an emotional plea by the preacher, no, its God arresting your heart, your soul, your mind, God arresting all of you and making you a new person in Christ Jesus. I love the Puritan's answer to the following question, what is Christianity? Christianity is the life of God in the soul of man! You want to know what true saving faith is, no, not some mental acknowledgement that there is a God, not a fleshly believing in Christ, no, not some sinner's prayer where you repeat the words of a preacher at the end of a service, not saying yes to Jesus, no, but a true saving justifying faith, turn with me to John 12:23-26, "*And Jesus answered them, saying, The hour is come, that the Son of man should be glorified. 24 Verily, verily, I say unto you, Except a corn of wheat fall into the ground and die, it abideth alone: but if it die, it bringeth forth much fruit. 25 He that loveth his life shall lose it; and he that hateth his life in this world shall keep it unto life eternal. 26 **If any man serve me, let him follow me;** and where I am, there shall also my servant be: if any man serve me, him will my Father honour.*" This, my dear brethren is the definition of true saving faith, serving Christ and following Christ!

Jesus Christ is not interested in your lip service; He is interested in your HEART! Proverbs 23:26, "*My son, **give me thine heart,** and let thine eyes observe my ways.*" God is saying to us, my son, my daughter, GIVE ME YOUR HEART! God doesn't want a part of you, HE WANTS ALL OF YOU! This is why there is a battle for your HEART! Deuteronomy 5:29, "***O that there were such an heart in them,** that they would fear me, and keep all my commandments always, that it might be well with them, and with their children for ever!" Here in Deut. 5, Moses is rehearsing the 10 Commandments to them again. Remember what they the first time in Ex.19:1-8. Deut. 6:5 & 6, "*And thou shalt love the LORD thy God **with all thine heart,** and with all thy soul, and with all thy might. 6 And these words, which I command thee this day, **shall be in thine heart.**" Deuteronomy 11:16 & 18, "*Take heed to yourselves, **that your heart be not deceived,** and ye turn aside, and serve other gods, and worship them; 18 **Therefore shall ye lay up these my words in your heart** and in your soul, and bind them for a sign upon your hand, that they may be as frontlets between your eyes." Deuteronomy 26:16, "*This day the LORD thy God hath commanded thee to do these statutes and judgments: thou shalt therefore keep and **do them with all thine heart,** and with all thy soul.*" Deuteronomy 30:6, 10, 14 & 17, "*And the LORD thy God will circumcise **thine heart,** and the heart of thy seed, **to love the LORD thy God with all thine heart,** and with all thy soul, that thou mayest live. 10 If thou shalt hearken unto the voice of the LORD thy God, to keep his commandments and his statutes which are written in this book of the law, **and if thou turn unto the LORD thy God with all thine heart,** and with all thy soul. 14 But the word is very nigh unto thee, in thy mouth, **and in thy heart,** that thou mayest do it. 17 **But if thine heart turn away,** so that thou wilt not hear, but shalt be drawn away, and worship other gods, and serve them." (Read to verse 20.) Joshua 22:5, "*But take diligent heed to do the commandment and the law, which Moses the servant of the LORD charged you, to love the LORD your God, and to walk in all his ways, and to keep his commandments, and to cleave unto him, and **to serve him with all your heart** and with all your soul." Joshua 24:23, "*Now therefore put away, said he, the strange gods which are among you, and **incline your heart unto the LORD God** of Israel." 1 Kings 2:1-4. 1 Samuel 12:24, "*Only fear the LORD, and **serve him in truth with all your heart:** for consider how great things he hath done for you." 1 Samuel 16:7, "*But the LORD said unto Samuel, Look not on his countenance, or on the height of his stature; because I have refused him: for the LORD seeth not as man seeth; for man looketh on the outward appearance, **but the LORD looketh on the heart.**" Turn to first Kings after temple is built and dedicated and after Solomon's prayer notice what Solomon********

says in 1 Kings 8:54-62. 2 Kings 10:15, “*And when he was departed thence, he lighted on Jehonadab the son of Rechab coming to meet him: and he saluted him, and said to him, **Is thine heart right, as my heart is with thy heart?** And Jehonadab answered, It is. If it be, give me thine hand. And he gave him his hand; and he took him up to him into the chariot.*”

God is interested in your heart; this is what interests me concerning Daniel. Notice again Daniel 1:8, “***But Daniel purposed in his heart*** that he would not (We will not.) *defile himself with the portion of the king's meat, nor with the wine which he drank: therefore he requested of the prince of the eunuchs that he might not defile himself.*” They could change his name, but they could not change HIS HEART! This is what we need, a godly holy conviction that doesn't capitulate or succumbs to the pressure of this world's attacks against Christianity! This is the whole argument of Paul in Romans 12:1 & 2, “*I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service. 2 And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God.*” From the time we are born into this world we are being conformed into the world's system. But at some point and time God saved you and change your heart, yea gave you a new heart and now we start seeing things through the eyes of God. Then we start to read the Bible and realize that God's way is right and that the world's way is diametrically opposed to His written Word and thus we have many decisions and changes in our lives. We realize that we must be transformed by renewing our minds with the word of God. It is a lifetime project, until the day we die we will be in constant assault by this world's secular humanistic views. Therefore, we must trust God and His word or succumb to this world's mindset. Christ says in Luke 12:34, “*For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also.*” Let us take heed to the words of Hebrews 10:22, “*Let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled from an evil conscience, and our bodies washed with pure water.*” And also in Hebrews 13:9, “*Be not carried about with divers and strange doctrines. For it is a good thing that the heart be established with grace...*” If you get anything from my message this morning, it's this. Christianity is a HEART issue not lip service to God.

Even our Lord Jesus Christ had to endure temptations to compromise: Matt.1:1-11. This is recorded for our benefit; it is a climatic battle of the threefold temptation of Christ by Satan. This temptation encompassed all the evil of this world, i.e. Christ was challenged to compromise the principles and truths of God in exchange for worldly gain and worldly acceptance. This threefold scope of evil had to do with three basic areas:

1. The lust of the flesh. (Make bread out of stone)
2. The lust of the eyes. (Up into an exceeding high mountain, and sheweth him all the kingdoms of the world, and the glory of them)
3. The pride of life. (Then the devil taketh him up into the holy city, and setteth him on a pinnacle of the temple, 6 And saith unto him, If thou be the Son of God, cast thyself down: for it is written, He shall give his angels charge concerning thee: and in their hands they shall bear thee up, lest at any time thou dash thy foot against a stone.”

This was basically the same temptation by Satan in the Garden, where Adam failed, but here our Great Savior triumphed gloriously! We find this temptation of the lust of the flesh, lust of the eyes and the pride of life in 1 John 2:15 & 16, *“Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world. If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him. 16 For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world.”*

Conclude with, He did not ask us to do something He Himself did not do or go through! This is why Hebrews 4:14 -16, is so precious and so needful, *“Seeing then that we have a great high priest, that is passed into the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold fast our profession. 15 For we have not an high priest which cannot be touched with the feeling of our infirmities; but was in all points tempted like as we are, yet without sin. 16 Let us therefore come boldly unto the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need.”* Verse 15 in the NIV, *“For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but we have one who has been tempted in every way, just as we are—yet was without sin.”*

Don't be like the Scottish woman in the following story taken from Our Daily Bread

Several years ago I read an article about Queen Mary, who made it her practice to visit Scotland every year. She was so loved by the people there that she often mingled with them freely without a protective escort. One afternoon while walking with some children, she went out farther than she'd planned. Dark clouds came up unexpectedly, so she stopped at a nearby house to borrow an umbrella. “If you will lend me one,” she said to the lady who answered the door, “I will send it back to you tomorrow.” The woman didn't recognize the Queen and was reluctant to give this stranger her best umbrella. So she handed her one that she intended to throw away. The fabric was torn in several places and one of the ribs was broken. The next day another knock was heard at the door. When the lady opened it, she was greeted by a royal guard, who was holding in her hand her old, tattered umbrella. “The Queen sent me,” he said. “She asked me to thank you for loaning her this.” For a moment the woman was stunned, then, she burst into tears. “Oh, what an opportunity I missed,” she cried. “I didn't give the Queen my very best! ([Our Daily Bread](#), Copyright RBC Ministries, Grand Rapids, MI. Reprinted by permission. All rights reserved)

Are you presenting God "tattered umbrellas" or your best?

May God help us to give Him our best; He gave us His best by sending His only begotten Son to die on the cross. Dear brethren, lets give Him our all and serve Him with a willing HEART!

Sing Nothing between!