**Compromise**

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**When you hear the word compromise, what immediate reaction do you have? Do you think it is good or bad to compromise?**

Most Christians agree that compromise of our faith is not a good thing. There are some areas in life that compromise is good such as in the political arena and in marriage.

Spiritual compromise can be dangerous. Jesus tells us in Revelation 3 that God would rather us be cold or hot but not lukewarm. Jesus said that he would spew the lukewarm out of his mouth.

It is believed that Solomon began to reign over Israel at the age of twenty. Twenty years later, at the age of 40, he had completed building the temple and the king’s palace. I am sure you all remember how God came to him in a dream and told him he could have whatever he wanted. Solomon asked for wisdom and God was very pleased. Because Solomon asked for wisdom, God told him that he would give him everything else.

By this time, Solomon as the wealthiest man on the face of the earth. Leaders from other nations would inquire of his wisdom and would send him wives as gifts. The children of Israel were commanded not to take wives from other nations (Deut 7:3,4). The reason for this was so that their hearts would not be turned other gods.

Solomon, at this time, had 700 wives and 300 concubines. Many of them came from other nations, violating God’s law.

Back in those days, when people were taken captive into other nations, they were forced to take that nation’s religion. Just the opposite happened with Solomon.

1Kings 11:4 says that Solomon’s wives turned his heart to their gods. Vs5-8 tell us that Solomon also built temples to these false gods.

God became very angry with Solomon.

5 steps in Solomon’s fall”

1. Wealth 10:14-27
2. Weapons 10:26-29
3. Women 11:1-3
4. Turning his heart from Jehovah 11:4
5. Outright idolatry 11:5

Just because compromise is okay in some areas of life, it is not okay in our spiritual lives. What sets Christianity apart from the rest of the world’s religions is that it does not compromise!

**John 14:6**

*Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me.*

“Unlike his father, David, Solomon had a divided loyalty. By leaving room in his heart for the worship of idols, Solomon revealed that he was never completely totally devoted to God. He refused to recognize that his tendency to seek his own desires led him to make devastating compromises in his faith.”

**What can we learn as Christians today from this sad chapter in Solomon’s life?**

1 Kings 11:11

God tells Solomon that He will rend the kingdom from Solomon’s hands but not in his lifetime. This means that He will take it away from Solomon’s lineage. Only one tribe, would continue on in Solomon’s lineage in Judah.

Solomon’s actions and compromise not only affected him but all of Israel.

**Your actions have enormous consequences that reach far and wide and affect more people than just you!**

God holds us accountable for our sins regardless of position, age, or previous faithfulness. Thus we need to avoid spiritual compromise in every area of our lives. This lesson teaches us some specific truths, namely;

● God expects us to live by His commandments throughout our lives.

● We can guard our integrity and engage in regular spiritual checkups (moral inventories) so as to avoid all forms of spiritual compromise.

● We are to value and appreciate God’s grace, but we should never presume upon it or take it for granted.

**Having learned from Solomon’s example of spiritual compromise, how will you make a fresh commitment to the Lord today to guard against it?**

**When we compromise, we make bad decisions.**

**What were some of Solomon’s bad decisions?**

**Reheboam, Solomon’s son took over as king but God had already made plans to split Israel as we saw earlier.**

**Jereboam was given the 10 northern nations of Israel and Reheboam got to rule the southern kingdom of Judah.**

**Reheboam made a bad decision**

**1 Kings 12:4**

New King James Version (NKJV)

4 “Your father made our yoke heavy; now therefore, lighten the burdensome service of your father, and his heavy yoke which he put on us, and we will serve you.” 5 So he said to them, “Depart *for* three days, then come back to me.” And the people departed.

Sometimes there is wisdom in taking time to make decisions.

**1 Kings 12:6-11**

New King James Version (NKJV)

6 Then King Rehoboam consulted the elders who stood before his father Solomon while he still lived, and he said, “How do you advise *me* to answer these people?”   
7 And they spoke to him, saying, “If you will be a servant to these people today, and serve them, and answer them, and speak good words to them, then they will be your servants forever.”   
8 But he rejected the advice which the elders had given him, and consulted the young men who had grown up with him, who stood before him. 9 And he said to them, “What advice do you give? How should we answer this people who have spoken to me, saying, ‘Lighten the yoke which your father put on us’?”   
10 Then the young men who had grown up with him spoke to him, saying, “Thus you should speak to this people who have spoken to you, saying, ‘Your father made our yoke heavy, but you make *it* lighter on us’—thus you shall say to them: ‘My little *finger* shall be thicker than my father’s waist! 11 And now, whereas my father put a heavy yoke on you, I will add to your yoke; my father chastised you with whips, but I will chastise you with scourges!’”[[a](http://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=1%20Kings%2012:6-11&version=NKJV#fen-NKJV-9163a)]

What was the result of this?

**1 Kings 12:16-19**

New King James Version (NKJV)

16 Now when all Israel saw that the king did not listen to them, the people answered the king, saying:   
  
      “What share have we in David?   
      *We have* no inheritance in the son of Jesse.   
      To your tents, O Israel!   
      Now, see to your own house, O David!”   
So Israel departed to their tents. 17 But Rehoboam reigned over the children of Israel who dwelt in the cities of Judah.   
18 Then King Rehoboam sent Adoram, who *was* in charge of the revenue; but all Israel stoned him with stones, and he died. Therefore King Rehoboam mounted his chariot in haste to flee to Jerusalem. 19 So Israel has been in rebellion against the house of David to this day.