

## Can't We All Just Get Along?

By Ken Davies

### John 15:19

If you belonged to the world, it would love you as its own. As it is, you do not belong to the world, but I have chosen you out of the world. That is why the world hates you.

Let's eat Grandma!  
Let's eat, Grandma!



**PUNCTUATION  
SAVES LIVES**

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Today is **National Punctuation Day**, so I thought I'd let you know: Proper punctuation can save lives!

### Let's pray together.

Compromise is good, right? They say in politics, nothing gets done without compromise. Personally, I wish sometimes that the politicians would do nothing, rather than some of the things they come up with – allegedly, doing the “will of the people.”

“Compromise is but the sacrifice of one right or good in the hope of retaining another—too often ending in the loss of both.” - **Tryon Edwards** (American theologian)

“Compromise: An agreement between two men to do what both agree is wrong.” - Lord Edward Cecil

But, compromise is good, right? A number of years ago, a man got on T.V. and asked, “Can't we all just get along?” But, the question is: Is that what a Christian is called upon to do in Scripture? Certainly, in our personal relationships with our neighbors, Jesus said to “turn the other cheek.” This means that when offenses come, we are to be gracious and overlook them as much as possible.

However, the world these days is calling upon Christians to compromise what they believe and teach about Christ and the Bible. And, in order to accomplish this, they accuse us of being “narrow-minded,” “bigoted,” “homo-phobic,” or worse. In modern parlance, of course, that's known as “bullying.” It's the attempt to get Christians to shut up and go away. As long as we are silent about Christ and His

Word, or in complete agreement with those in the world, there will be “peace.” Is that what Jesus meant by “turning the other cheek”?

**John Ruskin** said, “You may either **win** your peace or **buy** it: **win** it, by resistance to evil; **buy** it, by compromise with evil.”

“All compromise is based on give and take, but there can be no give and take on fundamentals. Any compromise on...fundamentals is a surrender. For it is all give and no take.” - Mohandas (Mahatma) Gandhi

So, we should be able to compromise when it comes to things that are not fundamental to our faith in Jesus Christ. “What are the fundamentals?” you ask (and well you might): Things like the inspiration of Scripture, the virgin birth, the resurrection of the dead, and the deity of Christ. That’s not an exhaustive list, of course, but let it suffice to say that there are certain things we cannot deny without denying Christ Himself (thus marking us as an unbeliever—no matter what we may **call** ourselves).

Some who claim to be Christians, for instance, scoff at the idea of a virgin birth. Did you know that biblically-speaking, if you deny the virgin birth of Jesus, you deny your own salvation? Think about it: If Jesus was born in the usual human way, with no divine intervention, then Jesus would’ve been born “in Adam,” that is, as an inheritor of the original covenant made with Adam—a **broken** covenant, by the way.

That covenant carried with it a curse, which was passed down from the fathers to the sons. If you were a male and could trace your father’s ancestry back to Adam, you were under that curse, which was separation from God. This is what is known as “original” sin. Without Christ, that sin alone is enough to condemn us to an eternity separated from God in very unpleasant circumstances.

If Jesus was born in the usual human way, He would’ve been born with that original sin, and thus been unable to save anyone! God demands His sacrifices be “without blemish,” meaning in the case of Jesus, He had to be completely without sin. Our heavenly Father made this a reality by becoming the Father of Jesus, thus enabling Him to be born in a sinless condition. It is only without Adam as His father that Jesus could offer Himself as the perfect, sinless sacrifice. So you see, fundamentals such as the virgin birth are much more important than you may have realized.

Therefore, as Christians, we cannot compromise with the world. While understanding this, some will ask, “Does that mean you have to be so offensive about it?” Granted, some Christians seem to go out of their way to be obnoxious, but that’s not the case with the majority. So, what’s the cause of this offense?

In a very dark place, even the smallest light can seem to be harsh. Jesus called upon His disciples to be lights in this darkened world. He also said to be salt. Even the tiniest of cuts will sting with pain when they come into contact with salt. Yet, Jesus calls us to be like salt and light in this world.

Non-Christians want us to be more like **they** are. They want us to **hide** our light and allow our salt to become flavorless. But what good is a darkened light, or salt with no flavor? Do you think that by compromising the message of the Bible you will become the **friend** of those in the world? Not at all!

**James 4:4** says: “You adulterous people, don't you know that friendship with the world means enmity against God? Therefore, anyone who chooses to be a friend of the world becomes an enemy of God.”

They tell us we should be more “broad-minded,” but Jesus said, “...broad is the road that leads to destruction” (**Matthew 7:13**). We’re called “narrow-minded,” but Jesus said that the gate that leads to life is narrow, and very few people find it (**Matthew 7:14**).

Unregenerate people are looking for, desperately seeking, Christians who will **not** compromise their beliefs. Have you ever tried to use a flashlight whose batteries are dead? It’s quite a frustrating thing to expect a beam of illumination and find only more darkness. Whether they express it or not, the unsaved **want** Christians to be different! They **expect** Christians to be different, and, of course, to be **genuine**.

Why do you think they cry out, “Hypocrite!” when the actions of a Christian don’t line up with Scripture? In his heart of hearts, a pagan knows his own philosophy and lifestyle lack any true meaning and lead only to ultimate destruction. Though we are hated and maligned for our Christian stance, the world is **disappointed** if we don’t measure up to the standards of the Bible!

Yet, the pressure on Christians to conform to the ways and thinking of the world is sometimes enormous. Aren’t there times when you feel like just giving up and assimilating? Look at what God told the children of Israel in **Exodus 34:12-16**:

<sup>12</sup>“Be careful not to make a treaty with those who live in the land where you are going, or they will be a snare among you. <sup>13</sup>**Break down their altars, smash their sacred stones and cut down their [symbols of their goddess,] Asherah....** <sup>14</sup>Do not worship any other god, for the Lord, whose name is Jealous, is a jealous God.”

<sup>15</sup>“Be careful not to make a treaty with those who live in the land; for when they prostitute themselves to their gods and sacrifice to them, they will invite you and you will eat their sacrifices. <sup>16</sup>And when you choose some of their daughters as wives for your sons and those daughters prostitute themselves to their gods, they will lead your sons to do the same.”

This is not assimilation, but radical **confrontation**. In **2 Corinthians 10:5**, Paul said, “We demolish arguments and every pretension that sets itself up against the knowledge of God....”

If you know your Old Testament history, you know the results of allowing the worship of false gods to remain in, or be imported into the land of Israel. Even Solomon, the wisest man who ever lived, was ensnared by his wives that worshipped other gods, and ended his life as a reprobate:

### **1 Kings 11:1-8**

King Solomon, however, loved many foreign women besides Pharaoh’s daughter—Moabites, Ammonites, Edomites, Sidonians and Hittites. <sup>2</sup>They were from nations about which the Lord had told the Israelites, “You must not intermarry with them, because they will surely turn your hearts after their gods.” Nevertheless, Solomon held fast to them in love. <sup>3</sup>He had seven hundred wives of royal birth and three hundred concubines, and his wives led him astray. <sup>4</sup>As Solomon grew old, his wives turned his heart after other gods, and his heart was not fully devoted to the Lord his God, as the heart of David his father had been. <sup>5</sup>He followed Ashtoreth the goddess of the Sidonians, and Molek the detestable god of the Ammonites. <sup>6</sup>So Solomon did evil in the eyes of the Lord....

<sup>7</sup> On a hill east of Jerusalem, Solomon built a high place for Chemosh the detestable god of Moab, and for Molek the detestable god of the Ammonites. <sup>8</sup> He did the same for all his foreign wives, who burned incense and offered sacrifices to their gods.

Some of these gods demanded the sacrifice of children. “That’s outrageous!” you may be thinking. But let’s consider the subject of children for a moment. Have you compromised with the world regarding the subject of abortion? Since *Roe v. Wade* made it “legal,” there have been over 59 million<sup>1</sup> abortions in the United States alone. Have you hardened your heart to the point that such a holocaust doesn’t affect you? There is a quotation attributed to Joseph Stalin: “One death is a tragedy. Millions of deaths is a statistic.”

**Proverbs 24:11** says, “Rescue those being led away to death; hold back those staggering toward slaughter.”

How would you feel if someone was going around murdering children? No trial...no appeal...just an execution. What would you do? Would you remain silent? Would you sit back passively, and say, “Well, I’m personally opposed to it, but...”? Would you be able to assuage your conscience if you thought of these executions as “post-natal abortions”? Would **that** make it OK?

During one President’s administration, he and his party kept pressing their agenda forward, claiming to be doing it all “for the children.” Yet, it’s that same president’s wife who recently ran for political office under the banner of a “woman’s right to choose.” That’s euphemistic code for “a woman’s right to end the life of her unborn child.

God provided the death penalty for anyone who caused the death of an unborn child (**Exodus 21:22-25**). “...[Y]ou are to take life for life,” is what God said.

Speaking of politicians, **G. K. Chesterton** had this to say, “Compromise used to mean that half a loaf was better than no bread. Among modern statesmen it really seems to mean that half a loaf is better than a whole loaf.”

**Princess Diana** said, “They say it is better to be poor and happy than rich and miserable, but how about a compromise like moderately rich and just moody?”

As Christians, we cannot get along with everyone, even those within the Church! But we cannot, in an attempt to make ourselves more tolerable to those in the world, compromise biblical standards or doctrines.

**A. W. Tozer** said, “We are not diplomats but prophets, and our message is not a compromise but an ultimatum.”

In the first century, there were churches that were trying to compromise with the pagan culture around them:

**Revelation 2:12, 14**

<sup>12</sup> “To the angel of the church in Pergamum write:...

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<sup>1</sup> According to *The State of Abortion in the United States: January 2017*, produced by the National Right to Life Committee, Inc., there have been 59, 115,995 since 1973.

<sup>14</sup> ...I have a few things against you: There are some among you who hold to the teaching of **Balaam**, who taught Balak to entice the Israelites to sin so that they ate food sacrificed to idols and committed sexual immorality.

You remember Balaam, right? He was hired by Balak, king of Moab, to curse Israel. At first, Balaam comes across like a godly man, only willing, he says, to do and say what the Lord tells him to. God Himself prevented Balaam from cursing Israel, so Balak was going to keep his money. Balaam came up with a plan to collect all that money. He knew that as long as Israel held fast to God's Word, and did what it said, God would protect them. Sneaky guy that he was, Balaam came up with a plan to get **Israel** to remove God's protection from them! He told Balak to send Canaanite women into the camp to seduce the men into worshipping the Canaanite gods. Since those worship ceremonies involved lots of sex, it wasn't too difficult to convince some of the Israelite men to cooperate. And the result was?

God sent a plague among the people. You know how the plague was stopped?

#### **Exodus 25:4-5**

The Lord said to Moses, "Take all the leaders of these people, kill them and expose them in broad daylight before the Lord, so that the Lord's fierce anger may turn away from Israel."

<sup>5</sup> So Moses said to Israel's judges, "Each of you must put to death those of your people who have yoked themselves to the Baal of Peor."

**24,000 people died that day from the plague.** The judges of Israel were told to purge the evil from the people by killing those who had participated in the idolatry. And, note that it was the leaders who were put to death. It doesn't appear that they were involved in the idol worship, but only that they were silent about it. We must be as ruthless with our own tendencies to compromise with the pagan world around us.

Have you accepted the world's doctrine that if a person is born with certain tendencies, they shouldn't be called to repentance, but should be given special status, and their lifestyle choices should be celebrated. Have you bought into this way of thinking, even when God's Word calls such behavior sinful? Do you think being "born that way" should act as an excuse for what God calls sin? Let's consider that idea for a moment, and apply it to another behavior that the Bible calls sinful. Alcoholism is called a disease, whereas the Bible calls it drunkenness, and condemns it as sin. Let's apply the world's logic to alcoholism. An alcoholic person is apparently born that way. So, according to the philosophy of the world, we should help the alcoholic to celebrate his lifestyle and do all we can to cover up the destructive results of drunkenness. The Bible tells us to call the sinner to repentance, no matter what that sin is, and no matter how it has been defined by the world around us!

**Charles Swindoll** said, "The swift wind of compromise is a lot more devastating than the sudden jolt of misfortune."

Examine yourself in this coming week. Ask the Lord to reveal to you where you may have compromised on essential issues. When you realize where you have compromised, **repent**—ask God to forgive you of that sin, and turn back to God's way, God's idea of what's right and wrong. And ask Him to give you the wisdom and the strength necessary to hold fast to what the Bible says, for that is the **only standard**. Pray that the Holy Spirit will guide and protect you, and may God bless you as you seek to do His will in the midst of this wicked world. **Amen.**