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Compromise by Bill Lockwood

We are living in an age of compromise. Sometimes compromise is a good thing. For example, husbands and wives compromise desires and habits for the sake of harmony. Friends must occasionally compromise to maintain that friendship.

Sometimes Christians must compromise for the sake of harmony in a congregation. In biblical matters involving truth, however, there must never be compromise with error.

Moses and Aaron stood before Pharaoh with God's demand, 'Let my people go.' Pharaoh sought to compromise (Exodus 8:28) with the Hebrew leaders by saying, 'It's all right to leave, *but don't go very far.*' Moses rightly refused to make concessions of the word of the Lord which demanded a complete removal.

In Exodus 20:11 Pharaoh adjusted his offer to allow *only the men to depart* as they desires. Such an invitation was promptly rejected by Moses who realized that compromise was equivalent to conceding the truth. What a stark contrast to the popular religious philosophy at present which seeks to please all and offend none! Such a disposition is no more praiseworthy today than it was when king Saul sought peace at expense of the divine injunction (1 Samuel 15). "For the people ... desired it!" he maintained.

To gain the good will of ones fellows and to obey the commands of God are not often mutually attainable. When Peter suggested upon the Mount of Transfiguration three altars of worship or honor, the voice of God reminded mankind that compromise to please all does not necessarily please God (Matthew 17:1-3).

When the apostle Paul was pressed by Judaizing teachers to compromise to the Jewish demands that Titus, one of his fellow companions, be circumcised, he answered with this *uncompromising* statement: "To whom we gave place by way of subjection, no, not for one hour; that the truth of the gospel might continue with you." (Galatians 2:5). He evidently recognized that compromise was not in the interest of truth.

So also, there are numerous churches in America which reflect an identical disposition of *compromising truth*. We are told, "there are many avenues of worship" and God is not particular on which one He prefers, as long as one is sincere. Others suggest that a smorgasbord of churches and organizations is a good thing because it gives men a choice. This, in spite of the fact that most of them are designed and begun by men not God.

Who are we seeking to please? For everything in religion, there must be a "thus saith the Lord" (1 Corinthians 4:6).