

“Not a hoof shall be left behind” (Exodus 10:26)

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Introduction: Those who follow God have learned when compromise cannot be allowed.

- A. Moses gave God’s demand to Pharaoh and he wanted to negotiate. **(Ex 10:24-27)**
 - 1. When God speaks man simply stands upon God’s word without change.
 - 2. This is the difference between a living faith and worldly religion.
 - 3. The world will think of us as very strange and often call us stubborn.
- B. Trusting God involves learning to walk by faith against the majority.
 - 1. God’s directions are simple and within our ability to practice.
 - 2. The greatest challenge we will find in this changing world is the pressure and shame placed upon us through our relationships. **(Gal 1:10; 5:11; 6:12)**
 - 3. The challenge of our future growth will come in our choosing to be conformed or to be transformed. **(Rom 12:1-2)**
 - 4. Does the world consider you strange?

I. We must be without compromise in being truthful and in speaking the truth

- A. The foundation of Christianity is truth. **(Jn 8:31-32)**
 - 1. The first step to being able to hear is honesty. **(Lk 8:15)**
 - 2. Truth is hated by a world that wants no absolutes. Pilate’s heart wanted one thing while his mind knew what was true. **(Jn 18:37-38)**
 - 3. This dark world hates the light!
- B. God wanted Israel to speak the truth and suffer for it!
 - 1. Consider Joseph’s advice to his family about speaking the truth to Pharaoh! **(Gen 46:31-34)**
 - 2. Some today would say this was a mistake. Just hide the truth and reveal it a cow at a time! What would *the Egyptians think* about this approach?
 - 3. The pain brought on by the truth is a process God uses to develop His people!
- C. God used Daniel to mold His people to start over after the apostasy.
 - 1. Daniel was taken to a foreign land and could be killed for any failure.
 - 2. Daniel took a stand on what food and drink he would partake of. **(Dan 1:8-10)**
 - 3. What if he reasoned: “This is just a small matter and after all brethren disagree on many things.” Or “We will never have influence with others if we are so radical!” or “While the *traditional* thinking of the Jews was to avoid certain foods we can serve God by a casual worship that includes cultural changes!”
 - 4. Daniel’s supervisor respected Daniel and risked his life for him. We know the rest of the story!

II. We must be without compromise in resisting sin.

- A. We need to know God’s will and also to seek wisdom in fighting sin. **(Heb 12:1-3)**
 - 1. Sin can become a snare that engulfs your whole life.
 - 2. Those who do not fight sin seriously will suffer many things.

B. “But fornication and all uncleanness or covetousness, let it not even be named among you, as is fitting for saints.” **(Eph 5:3)**

1. How do you win such a fight? Is it just a matter of willpower?
2. Peter learned the hard way when he tried just to proclaim he would never forsake the Lord! Where did he fail?
3. We must keep a mind filled with a hatred of sin. **(Heb 1:9; Jude 21-23)**
4. What would *wisdom teach us*? ... about associations (dating)? ... about circumstances? about mannerisms and language? about dress?
5. Married couples must be vigilant and not overconfident. **(Heb 13:4)**
6. “10 Ways to be Unfaithful to Your Mate and not even know it”

1. Flirting 2. Confiding in the opposite gender 3. Spending time alone with someone else 4. Talking negatively about your mate 5. Chatting on the Internet with someone of the opposite sex 6. Dressing to attract the attention of someone other than your spouse 7. Not being a willing sexual partner with your spouse.

7. God’s Wisdom may make you to appear as “odd” but you are standing!

III. We must be without compromise in remaining in the authority of Christ

A. Why do churches of Christ exist? We believe that we should go back and simply be the church found in the New Testament.

1. We imitate Jesus in limiting our practices and teaching to only what God has revealed. **(Jn 7:16-17; 8:28-32; 12:48-50)**
2. What happens when we commit to having “book, chapter and verse” for all that we teach and practice? **(1 Pt 4:11; Col 3:17)**

B. We will have a simple, God-centered worship.

1. How and when do we partake of the Lord’s Supper? **(Acts 20:7; 1 Cor 16:2)**
2. How do we raise money for the local church?
3. How shall we praise God in worship?
4. How shall we use the money taken on the first day of the week?
5. Consider a recent request to use our parking lot to raise money. We appear strange to many!

IV. We must be without compromise in our loyalty in putting God first

A. We are faced with daily choices in how we spend our money and time. **(Mt 6:33)**

1. It is easy to become focused on our desires and give God the scrapes. **(Rev 3:15-16)**
2. Some simply have not thought things through!

B. How should we regard one service of the church? - “It’s just one service!”

1. Do I have to attend on Wednesday night when I am out of town?
2. How should I treat a voluntary recreation event when there is a conflict?
3. Consider what some parents have done. (Ex. Football and basketball playoffs)
4. These have proven to be great teachers to our children. Is this too radical?

Conclusion: I will not accept deliverance from the ridicule of the world. **(Heb 11:35)**