

Compromise

Lawmakers do it frequently. They often come to an agreement with people of opposing opinions to “give a little to gain a little.” In order to get what they want they say, “If you support my bill I’ll support yours.” In a word – it is a compromise. Compromises are negotiated agreements. Your goal is to get what you want, knowing at the same time, you are also supporting something you actually don’t agree with.

The dictionary gives three meanings of the word compromise: (1) a way of reaching an agreement in which each person or group gives up something that was wanted, in order to end an argument or dispute; (2) something that combines the qualities of two different things and (3) a change that makes something *worse* and is not done for a good reason.



Nowhere in the definition is there consideration of what is actually the “right thing to do.” It is all about settling an argument and making something worse. It is not doing the right thing at all.

The Bible clearly tells us what the right thing to do is. The argument comes into play when we don’t *want* to do what is right, and we try to justify our position. As soon as we start to justify our actions, we know in our hearts we are going against God’s will. What we give up is our relationship with God, because we want God to give in. As loving as Jesus Christ is, He never gives in to sinful choices. Yes, He forgives our sins. Our part of seeking forgiveness is a pledge to not do it again. Jesus looks into our heart to see if we are sincere, or merely are bargaining to get what we want.

Each time we give in to intentional sin we widen the gap between ourselves and God. Jesus said, *If you love me, keep my commands (John 14:15)*. There is no question of His love for us, but how much do *we* love Jesus? When you compromise your beliefs, you are placing yourself first, above God.

We do have a roadmap, so there is no question of what is the right thing to do. The Bible clearly gives us the direction we should follow. And God does not negotiate. *If anyone, then, knows the good they ought to do and doesn't do it, it is sin for them (James 4:17)*.

Remember the legislators who have the authority to create the law of the land. Without them our secular world would be chaotic. God makes the laws that govern our hearts. Without His direction our lives would be confusing and chaotic as well. *Everyone who sins breaks the law; in fact, sin is lawlessness (1 John 3:4)*.

So, don’t compromise your beliefs. What is right is not negotiable. Each time you try to make your own rules, you move further away from your loving Father.

Question: How do you avoid compromising your values to do the right thing?

Prayer: Heavenly Father. We thank you for taking away the uncertainty of what is right and wrong. We pray we will draw upon you for strength to overcome the temptation to make bad choices. Amen.