

Moral And Doctrinal Compromise

In our last article, we noted that a relative view of morals has infected our society. The line between good and evil has been blurred; good being called evil and evil good (Isa. 5:20). This same attitude applies to doctrinal matters as well.

Long ago denominations gave up on taking a doctrinal stand. They relegated "doctrine" to the realm of "opinion." They argued that we should not argue over doctrinal differences. If you wanted to baptize by immersion, while they sprinkled, fine (cf. Col. 2:11-12). If they used an instrument, while you sang a cappella, don't fuss about it (cf. Eph. 5:19). That was the attitude--let's agree to disagree on doctrinal issues.

As doctrinal compromise softened the denominations, they began to give way on morals. Decades ago they had moral convictions. They could see that drinking, dancing and gambling were wrong, sinful (Gal. 5:19-21; 1 Pet. 4:3-4). They would line up protests against such evils and plainly condemn such things from the pulpit. Today, however, it is different. One compromise led to another.

Sadly, we see a doctrinal and moral compromise among Christians. If you look around and obtain material about what is going on among brethren, you will find out there is a strong push, among some brethren, to compromise on doctrine. We are supposed to lighten up on such things as a literal interpretation of Genesis 1. We are pressured to broaden the boundaries of fellowship. We are urged to not specifically identify men who spread error, a.k.a. name calling (cf. 2 Tim. 2:16-18).

Moreover, there is an ever-widening acceptance of worldliness. In some circles, social drinking is no longer condemned (cf. Prov. 20:1). Others are giving in to immodesty and filthy language (1 Tim. 2:9-10; Eph. 5:4). More and more brethren see nothing wrong with the lottery, gambling, believing it to be a harmless diversion (Eph. 4:28).

Thankfully, there are brethren standing against these digressions. However, many view the disagreements as a "preacher fuss." It is not a "preacher fuss," but a battle for the future condition of Christians throughout the land (cf. Gal. 4:11). If doctrine is compromised today, morals will be abandoned tomorrow. If morals are lax today, doctrine will be forsaken tomorrow. "But evil men and impostors will grow worse and worse, deceiving and being deceived" (2 Tim. 3:13).

Brethren, let us "Watch, stand fast in the faith, be brave, be strong" (1 Cor. 16:13).

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