

GOOD AND BAD COMPROMISE

Daniel 11:5-6 ... "...the king of the South shall become strong, as well as one of his princes; and he shall gain power over him and have dominion. His dominion shall be a great dominion. And at the end of some years they shall join forces..."

A compromise is where two parties surrender some of their stubbornness to achieve a desired goal. We face many opportunities to compromise with other people. A good compromise might be the settlement of a property dispute where you and your neighbor draw a boundary between your lands to avoid further anger toward one another. Giving up a few coconut trees or a few square meters of your land to settle the dispute, will be rewarded with a more peaceful relationship with your neighbor.

However, we must be careful not to surrender moral and spiritual beliefs that are important to us. Some compromises might lead you to submit to sinful goals of the other party, or to disobey God. For instance, a Christian church and school gave a part of their property, which had been dedicated to Christ by its founding missionaries, for the construction of a mosque. The differences in their beliefs produce frequent conflicts because the two faiths are incompatible. It has also led to marriages between the two groups, which is a violation of Christian teaching. This has nothing to do with Islam, but it demonstrates the problems that can occur when lines are blurred and people compromise their religious convictions, which both groups did when land dedicated to Christ, was donated for the mosque. The Bible speaks clearly about unequal relationships in 2 Corinthians 6:14.

Governments compromise with rebellious groups to try and achieve peace, even if the rebels have been responsible for many murders. Companies merge for the claimed purpose of becoming stronger and earning bigger market share. Young girls compromise the principles under which they were raised, to marry men with no morals or work ethics. In every one of these examples, one party will turn out to be the weaker partner due to inappropriate compromise. Rebels will not give up their goals to conquer, most employees of the weaker company in a merger will be fired, and girls who marry immoral drunks will live miserably and possibly even die.

Today's verse is from the story of Abraham and Lot, who discovered that their herds and families had become too large for one piece of land to support. Abraham gave Lot the choice of any land he desired. Lot chose that which was most beautiful and fertile. Abraham moved to a less attractive area, just to eliminate strife and discord between them. Lot's greedy choice was the region which contained the pagan city of Sodom. Lot moved near and eventually into Sodom causing his family to suffer terribly, while Abraham prospered and enjoyed God's blessings. In this case, the peace they enjoyed between one another through compromise, led to terrible consequences for one of them.

Be careful with whom you compromise and the terms. You could be compromising with the devil.

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