

The Four Compromises of the Devil

By Doug Hamilton

Part 3

After the first four plagues helped convince Pharaoh to start reasoning, he offered a couple of compromises. In the first two parts of this series, we respectively covered the first two compromising proposals that Pharaoh offered Moses in response to the request to “...go a three days’ journey into the wilderness, that we may sacrifice to the LORD our God” (Ex 3:18). The first compromise was to offer the sacrifice in the land, the Compromise of Uncommitted Worship. The second was to go “not too far” into the wilderness to sacrifice, the Compromise of Uncommitted Heart. These are two areas that the devil wants the Christian to compromise when it comes to their walk with Christ. Pharaoh still did not learn his lesson and the plagues continued to destroy his nation.

- 5) Plague on Livestock –Hardening of Pharaoh’s heart
- 6) Plague of Boils –Hardening of Pharaoh’s heart
- 7) Plague of Hail –Confession of sin, Removal of Plague, Hardening of Pharaoh’s heart

As mentioned before, each plague was an all-out assault on the gods of Egypt and was being used to bring the nation to their knees.

Compromise #3: Serve God with Uncommitted Children

Exodus 10:7-11 Pharaoh’s servants said to him, “How long will this man be a snare to us? Let the men go, that they may serve the LORD their God. Do you not realize that Egypt is destroyed?”⁸ So Moses and Aaron were brought back to Pharaoh, and he said to them, “Go, serve the LORD your God! Who are the ones that are going?”⁹ Moses said, “We shall go with our young and our old; with our sons and our daughters, with our flocks and our herds we shall go, for we must hold a feast to the LORD.”¹⁰ Then he said to them, “Thus may the LORD be with you, if ever I let you and your little ones go! Take heed, for evil is in your mind.”¹¹ “Not so! Go now, the men *among you*, and serve the LORD, for that is what you desire.” So they were driven out from Pharaoh’s presence.

- Pharaoh was willing to propose another compromise for Moses and the people of God. He basically said, “You can go and make your sacrifices in the wilderness just like God said, except you must leave your children behind.”
- Why would he propose such a thing? Some speculate it was because that would assure that the Jews would be coming back into the slave pool of cheap labor. I am persuaded it is more than that, for the Egyptians clearly understood the benefit of control over the next generation. This was the same country only a generation prior that was sacrificing baby Jewish boys in the Nile River in an effort to control the population of Jews. If they could keep the youth from being involved in the religious process, then perhaps this might stifle the revolutionary movement of Moses. If they could influence the “Rocking of the Cradle”, then perhaps they could “Rule the World” for a little longer. In any case the proposal was made by Pharaoh to leave the children behind in Egypt.
- This is called the Compromise of Serving God with Uncommitted Children because it was the “little ones” that were being proposed to be left behind. This was simply not an option for the followers of God in that day and even today.
 - Brothers and Sisters of the congregation, God appreciates all you do for the kingdom and the people thereof.

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- He desires for you to serve Him with committed worship and a committed heart.
- He loves it that you came up out of the waters of baptism on the day you entered the covenant with Him to leave your worldly Egypt of sin.
- He cannot tolerate it when we leave our “little ones” back in Egypt to fend for themselves!

Follow the foundation of Jesus:

- It says of young Jesus in *Luke 2:52* *And Jesus kept increasing in wisdom and stature, and in favor with God and men.* This statement was made while He was twelve years old. Simply summarized, Jesus grew mentally, physically, spiritually and socially. What was the foundation for this? It was primarily laid by the earthly parents that God chose for Jesus. We really do not know a lot about Jesus’ early beginnings from the Holy Scriptures. From this historical record we know that his parents were deeply involved in the culture of God.
 - During the period of question for Joseph, he was willing to put her away privately, but the Lord communicated to him that the child was conceived of the Holy Spirit. *Matthew 1:24* “*And Joseph awoke from his sleep and did as the angel of the Lord commanded him, and took Mary as his wife...*”
 - They followed the religious protocol that they followed when they brought Jesus to the temple for circumcision dedication in *Luke 2:21*.
 - *Luke 2:39* states that “...they had performed everything according to the Law of the Lord, they returned to Galilee, to their own city of Nazareth.” It was there that they would continue raising Him up in a Jewish home.
 - *Luke 2:41* states “*Now His parents went to Jerusalem every year at the Feast of the Passover.*” They were serious about their relationship with God and it showed in the scriptures and in the life of Jesus.
- It must be assumed that Joseph and Mary nourished and educated the child as well. It was in that environment the Lord was brought up. God saw fit to have Him in a home that would cause Him to grow in every way.

We as Christian parents have that same obligation to our children.

- We as parents are to educate our children in the ways of the Lord.
 - *Ephesians 6:4* Fathers, do not provoke your children to anger, but bring them up in the discipline and instruction of the Lord.
 - As the hymnal based on *Psalm 119:9* states “How shall the young secure their hearts And guard their lives from sin? Thy Word the choicest rules imparts To keep the conscience clean.
- We as parents are to provide for children’s physical needs.
 - *1 Timothy 5:8* But if anyone does not provide for his own, and especially for those of his household, he has denied the faith and is worse than an unbeliever.
 - *Luke 11:11-12* “Now suppose one of you fathers is asked by his son for a fish; he will not give him a snake instead of a fish, will he? ¹² “Or if he is asked for an egg, he will not give him a scorpion, will he?”

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- We as parents are to generate an environment of spirituality.
 - Mark 9:42 “Whoever causes one of these little ones who believe to stumble, it would be better for him if, with a heavy millstone hung around his neck, he had been cast into the sea.”
 - Colossians 3:21 Fathers, do not exasperate your children, so that they will not lose heart.
 - Psalm 78:4 We will not conceal them from their children, But tell to the generation to come the praises of the LORD, And His strength and His wondrous works that He has done.
 - 1 Thessalonians 2:11 “...just as you know how we *were* exhorting and encouraging and imploring each one of you as a father *would* his own children...”
- We as parents are to expose our children to the society of the church.
 - Matthew 19:13-14 Then *some* children were brought to Him so that He might lay His hands on them and pray; and the disciples rebuked them. ¹⁴ But Jesus said, “Let the children alone, and do not hinder them from coming to Me; for the kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these.”
 - Acts 26:4 “So then, all Jews know my manner of life from my youth up, which from the beginning was spent among my *own* nation and at Jerusalem;
 - We should want to surround them with their Christian peers because “*Bad company corrupts good morals.*” (1 Corinthians 15:33)

Those who have been blessed by having children in the home can hopefully count them as one the highest blessings afforded to humans on this earth. As David recorded in *Psalm 127:4-5* “*Like arrows in the hand of a warrior, So are the children of one’s youth.* ⁵ *How blessed is the man whose quiver is full of them...*” With great blessing comes great responsibility and nothing could be truer than with the blessing of children in our lives.

Palm Beach Lakes Church of Christ Youth Study

A few years ago there was a youth study at one of our sisterhood churches in Florida. They tracked nearly three decades of their youth to graduation. There were a total of 151 students that graduated high school from that youth group with the following statistics. After no less than five years from their graduation, 47% were still faithful and 53% were no longer faithful.

- If the home lacked a faithful father upon graduation that rate of unfaithfulness rose to 62%
- If there was not a faithful mother in the home upon graduation that unfaithfulness rose to the rate jumped to 72%.
- If the student was not actively involved with the youth program of the church, the unfaithfulness rate rose to 80%.
- If the student was not in regular Bible study and worship, the infidelity rate rose to 90%.
- If the student only attended only the Sunday morning worship, they still had the 90%.
- If that youth student went onto a Christian College, 78% remained faithful.
- If that student DID NOT attend a Christian college, 68% were unfaithful.

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- If the student married a Christian, they were found to have stayed faithful 78 % of the time.
- If the student married a non-Christian, they were found to be unfaithful 87% of the time,

Of those that remained faithful...

- 70% had a faithful father.
- 90% had a faithful mother.
- 85% were regularly involved in the youth group.
- 97% were regularly at Bible study & worship.
- 55% attended a Christian college.
- 87% who married did so to another Christian.

Of those that did not remain faithful...

- 43% did not have a faithful father.
- 23% did not have a faithful mother.
- 75% were not regularly involved in the youth program.
- 63% were not regularly at Bible study & worship.
- 86% did not attend a Christian college.
- 76 % of those who married did NOT marry a Christian.

Some conclusions from the data:

- There are never any 100% scenarios.
 - Just because your child is completely committed to the youth program does not mean that they are guaranteed to remain so. Statistics can point out a likely pattern, but never a guarantee. The odds of many of us ever becoming a first-generation Christian is quite unlikely.
 - There are many converts that have come from the gutters of life, the bar scene, from prison, from drugs & alcohol, from fornication, from adultery, from liars, from cheaters and from thieves. The odds of converting from a group like it are highly unlikely, but yet the church pews are filled with saved souls who did.
 - This study is not referring to first-generation Christians, but second and beyond-generation Christians. We must not ignore this fact.
- The effects are cumulative. The factors that determine where people go to college and whom they marry usually has been in place long before the time those decisions are being made. The evidence shows that if a child grows up in a home where emphasis is placed on Christian education and Christian marriage, then there is internal pressure to conform to the Christian community. Where there is lack of conviction it will show in the major decisions of life.
- The NUMBER ONE FACTOR that determines generational faithfulness is PARENTAL INVOLVEMENT. *We are told in Proverbs 22:6 Train up a child in the way he should go, Even when he is old he will not depart from it.* This is so true and the statistics bear it out. When parents are heavily committed to Christ and the church family, they will have a significantly greater rate of allowing that faith to transcend to the next generation.

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Camp Hill Church of Christ Youth Study

In 2008 a study at Camp Hill church of Christ covering 35 years of youth faithfulness was conducted. Out of the 108 graduates that went through the youth group from 1973 to 2008, the following conclusions were issued:

- Some 84% of those who were active in the youth group as teens are attending church today – but only 40% of those who were not active in the youth group are faithful now.
- The activity level in the youth group seems to be strongly influenced by whether both parents were actively involved (72% vs. 20%)
- About 79% of those active in the youth group attended Christian camps - but only 20% of non-active teens.
- About 58% of those active in the youth group attended Christian college - but none of non-active teens.
- Do you want your child to marry a Christian? Send them to Christian camps, Christian colleges, and get them active in the youth group. Two thirds of those active as teens married Christians – but only 20% of those not actively involved.

The accuracy of this information is consistent with what churches around the nation have also concluded. PARENTAL INVOLVEMENT is the #1 factor to determine if your children will remain faithful after they leave the church family. With it they benefit from an organized perspective and without it they are left to find the protective structure from somewhere else. “Go worship, but leave your little ones in Egypt.” This must not happen anymore.

Thirty Day Challenge:

- If you have been leaving your children behind in Egypt concerning the youth activities, go to your sons and daughters immediately following the sermon and ask for their forgiveness for such. They need to hear that confession, see those tears and rejoice with your decision.
- For the next thirty days, be involved in every single youth event that is offered and that you can legitimately attend. Talk to the Youth Activities Deacon Dave Miller and ask to be a volunteer for these events. Be super involved! Use this as the foundation for the rest of your time you have with your children in your household.
- If you have blown it with your own children and they are out of your reach, you may have a great sense of missed opportunity. There is nothing you can do to go back in time and change it. What you can do today is to help someone else who might be in a position of needing some encouragement and assistance with their children.
 - For the next thirty days go to those in the congregation who do not have a faithful dad and commit to the development of that youth member. Team up with that parent and say, “I am willing and able to do whatever I can to help your child go to heaven. How can I help?”
 - Take the thirty days to really devote yourselves to setting up a commitment and then follow-up with it. BE INVOLVED!
- If your children are already moved on and you would like to still help, HELP! There are many projects that you can fund to help develop the youth.
 - There are many camps opportunities that you could help sponsor a child in. At Bear Valley Church of Christ in Colorado, there is a 100% fully paid camp for young men from 13 to 18 years old. It is a future preacher’s and elder’s training camp that young men can go to and the only cost is a couple of hundred for air

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travel. They pay for the lodging, the meals, the curriculum and the rides to and from the airport. They also have a similar program for the women and their spiritual development.

- There is Camp Manatawny and PCC that always have a few that might need funding.
- Volunteer to be a driver with these events. Volunteer to cook for these events. Plan to assist in any way that there is a need.
- You can be involved in the classes for our youth. You might be that grandmother or grandfather that they might be missing in their lives. Get to know the youth's names and personalities. Parents, PLEASE make your child available as you see fit! It really does take a church family to raise a church member!

Closing Story:

In the first year of my Christianity, I did not take serious the need to take my young son to the Bible classes, but only worship on Sunday morning. This went on for a few months. I was tired and felt that it was good enough to meet the "standards". I was wrong. Our minister, Wayne Walling, the man that baptized me, brought me in office following a worship service one morning and lovingly pressed me with a difficult question. He asked, "Doug, I know you are studying and growing in your relationship with the Lord, but if you are not taking advantage of the classes and fellowship for your young son, when will he be exposed to the church family?"

That really pricked me in the heart because I did not want to leave my child in Egypt while I pressed on in my spiritual walk. I committed that day to always have him involved with the youth program. In fact Jana and I extended that policy to all the children. We needed to be reminded along the way from many others of the importance of that decision, but we stuck with it. Let me give you four great reasons that Jana and I are happy we did. Their names are Adam, Natalie, Andrew and Abbie.

Last night I called Brother Walling and paid some dividends of thanks for that day. I told him that it was a turning point in the lives of my descendents and that he will always have a special place in my heart for taking the time to showing me the error of my way. I hope and pray that a couple of decades from now that you might be able to do the same for me. May you make the best decision that will pass that baton of faith in the generations to come.

Never fall for the Compromise of Uncommitted Children. DO NOT LEAVE YOUR CHILD IN EGYPT FOR ANOTHER MOMENT!