

Christians, Culture, & Compromise

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and our Savior and the only way to
Heaven? Have you chosen to accept
everything that he taught and said as
truth?

Do you believe that the Bible is
God's word, written down by
people who were inspired by the
Holy Spirit, and it is authoritative,
containing infallible truth and
instructions for life?

Whether or not we accept Scripture as truth, we must understand that some behaviors that our culture considers “acceptable”, Scripture clearly calls “Sin.”

Jesus is clear about what it means to be His follower:

Deny Yourself: Matthew 16: 24-25

Give up Everything: Luke 14:33

Jesus calls some things sin: Matthew 5 - 7

Jesus says to sinners, “Stop Sinning”: John 5:14,
John 8:11

Jesus says his followers obey his commands: John
8:31-32, John 14:23

Do you believe that sin separates
people from God?

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Do you believe that eternal
separation from God is absolutely
horrible?

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- 1) Tell people that God loves them, and you love them, but never address their sin so that they will not be offended and so that they will continue feeling comfortable.
- 2) Tell them that God loves them, and you love them, and that they are welcome whether they choose to change or not, but that you believe that their choices are outside of God's will, causing them separation from God.

Do you believe that the Bible is truth? It's
okay to believe that some things are sin.

Love people and hate sin with humility.

Christians are not unloving for believing what Scripture says. It's okay to believe and to say that some things are sin. But speak the truth in love, and don't ignore the plank in our own eye to point out the speck in someone else's.

Daniel 6: 1-16

It pleased Darius to appoint 120 satraps to rule throughout the kingdom, 2 with three administrators over them, one of whom was Daniel.

The satraps were made accountable to them so that the king might not suffer loss. 3 Now Daniel so distinguished himself among the administrators and the satraps by his exceptional qualities that the king planned to set him over the whole kingdom.

4 At this, the administrators and the satraps tried to find grounds for charges against Daniel in his conduct of government affairs, but they were unable to do so. They could find no corruption in him, because he was trustworthy and neither corrupt nor negligent.

5 Finally these men said, “We will never find any basis for charges against this man Daniel unless it has something to do with the law of his God.”

6 So these administrators and satraps went as a group to the king and said: “May King Darius live forever! 7 The royal administrators, prefects, satraps, advisers and governors have all agreed that the king should issue an edict and enforce the decree that anyone who prays to any god or human being during the next thirty days, except to you, Your Majesty, shall be thrown into the lions’ deⁿ.

8 Now, Your Majesty, issue the decree and put it in writing so that it cannot be altered—in accordance with the law of the Medes and Persians, which cannot be repealed.” 9 So King Darius put the decree in writing.

10 Now when Daniel learned that the decree had been published, he went home to his upstairs room where the windows opened toward Jerusalem. Three times a day he got down on his knees and prayed, giving thanks to his God, just as he had done before.

11 Then these men went as a group and found Daniel praying and asking God for help. 12 So they went to the king and spoke to him about his royal decree: “Did you not publish a decree that during the next thirty days anyone who prays to any god or human being except to you, Your Majesty, would be thrown into the lions’ den?”

The king answered, “The decree stands—in accordance with the law of the Medes and Persians, which cannot be repealed.”

13 Then they said to the king, “Daniel, who is one of the exiles from Judah, pays no attention to you, Your Majesty, or to the decree you put in writing. He still prays three times a day.” 14 When the king heard this, he was greatly distressed; he was determined to rescue Daniel and made every effort until sundown to save him.

15 Then the men went as a group to King Darius and said to him, “Remember, Your Majesty, that according to the law of the Medes and Persians no decree or edict that the king issues can be changed.”

16 So the king gave the order, and they brought Daniel and threw him into the lions’ den. The king said to Daniel, “May your God, whom you serve continually, rescue you!”

1) If you trust God with your life, then
God can trust you.

2) Those who are faithful *over time*
are always available.

3) A reputation of integrity makes us
“useable.”

4) Silence does not influence others.

5) Pray with your windows open.
Obey God and not man.

6) Standing for truth (even in love)
may cause some people to hate you.

7) Standing for truth may change the life of someone who hates you.

8) Compromise does not lead people
to Christ.