PUTTING AWAY SIN
(Ezra 10)

CHURCH APPLICATION

• Christians are not to be partnered with unbelievers
  
  (2 Corinthians 6:14-18)
  
• this applies to various sorts of unions and fellowships
  
  o e.g., marriage, business, employment, friendships, volunteer organizations

• Satan will seek to compromise the testimony and service of believers by luring them into association with worldly individuals and organizations; his work in this respect is not always easily discerned

• in order to avoid such associations we need to:
  
  o exercise simple obedience in obvious situations
  o spend time in prayer and consultation in less obvious cases

• the New Testament (NT) way is not one of rules and regulations; we are not governed by Old Testament Law, but by the Spirit of Christ who abides in us (Romans 7:6)

Some General NT Principles to Guide Us

• we are not to “love the world” (1 Jn 2:15-16) – not to desire the ways of the unbelieving world that is under the power of Satan
• we are to maintain “separation” from the unbelieving world; this doesn’t mean avoiding contact, but avoiding becoming entangled in and conformed to its wrongdoing (Romans 12:2)

• we are to “put off the old man” and his worldly conduct, and, by the renewing of the Spirit, “put on the new man” – created in the righteousness and holiness of Jesus Christ (Ephesians 4:22-24; Colossians 3:9-10)

• we are to “put away” lying, wrath, anger, theft, corrupt talk and evil/malicious speaking and “put on” the character of Christ that includes truthfulness, kindness, forgiveness, tenderheartedness, generosity and speech that builds others up (Ephesians 4:25-32; Colossians 3:8-14)

What To Do When We Have Been Compromised

When we find ourselves abiding in our “old man” ways and in fellowship with the world we should:

• Repent – change our minds from being content to live in union with the world and its sinful ways, and desire to be delivered from sin (2 Corinthians 7:10-11)
• Confess – admit our guilt to God, don’t hide it (1 John 1:6-10)
• Trust – abide in faith, with thanksgiving, in the sacrifice that Christ made for our trespasses against God (Colossians 2:13; 1 John 2:1-2)
• Separate – put away sinful associations and practices (2 Corinthians 6:14-18)

“Do not love the world or the things of the world...for all that is in the world...is not of the Father...” (1 John 2:15-16)