



When God's People Compromise

NorthRidge Church

Dr. M. David Myers

September 27, 2026

Many of the people of Israel, and even some of the priests and Levites, have not kept themselves separate from the other peoples living in the land. They have taken up the detestable practices of the Canaanites, Hittites, Perizzites, Jebusites, Ammonites, Moabites, Egyptians, and Amorites. – Ezra 9:1 NLT

The concern in Ezra 9 is spiritual _____ and
covenantal _____.

Compromise and the People of God ...

- I. Compromise exists when God's People cease being _____ (Ezra 9:1-4)
Cp. Lev. 20:26; Deut. 7:3-4; Rom. 12:2; 1 Pet. 1:15-16; Jn. 17:15
- II. Compromises of the _____ often _____
into the Future (Ezra 9:2-4)
Cp. Song of Solomon 2:15; Heb. 2:1; 1 Cor. 5:6
- III. _____ is a Proper Response over the _____
of the People of God (Ezra 9:3-5)
Cp. Psalm 51:4; 2 Cor. 7:10
- IV. Genuine _____ becomes Fertile Ground for
_____ and _____ (Ezra 9:5-15)
Cp. 1 John 1:9; Prov. 28:13; Ps. 32:5; James 5:16
- V. God's _____ is a Great _____
toward Repentance (Ezra 9:8-9)
Cp. Romans 2:9
- VI. The _____ provides us the _____
that Ezra only Looked Forward to (Ezra 9:15)
Cp. 2 Cor. 5:21; Philippians 3:9; 1 Peter 3:18

So What ...

1. Where have I become comfortable with what God calls sin?
2. Where am I allowing the culture to shape my convictions instead of Scripture shaping them?
3. Is there something I once grieved over that I now tolerate or potentially celebrate?
4. Have I confused God's patience with God's approval?
5. Am I more concerned about being accepted by people than being faithful to God?
6. Is my response to sin excuses—or repentance?
7. Have I allowed God's grace to make me grateful, or have I used grace as an excuse?

Appointment with God – Prayer Focus

How do you handle deep and personal prayer needs? Possibly a loved one who is a drug addict, an estranged adult child, or ongoing financial issues. God gives us two powerful strategies.

STRATEGY 1: Pray for God to change hearts. The deepest prayer needs are often caused by ignoring principles and relationship laws set forth by God. Changes in our behavior CAN be made by willpower and effort. However, the behaviors that heal relationship distress are only maintainable if there has been a HEART change. If we don't love the priorities God sets for our relationships, we don't maintain them. Pray that we HEAR the Lord's voice and turn to Him. Pray He blesses us by turning us away from our iniquities. [Acts 3:19-26] Pray for a new heart and a new spirit. [Ez. 36:26]

STRATEGY 2: Fight and contend for faith when your hope falters. [1 Tim. 6:12, Jude 3] Contend for your faith by meditating on the works of the Lord. Meditating on God's works brings our focus to God's POWER, His LOVE, His FAITHFULNESS! [Is. 46:9, Ps. 143:5]

A Story That Illustrates Both Strategies...

Years ago, a NorthRidge family was fully active in the life of the church. Their lives appeared to be picture-perfect until the adult son was arrested for drugs and other charges. The parents met the devastating news with grief, and with faith and prayer. They did all they could, including paying for several rehab treatments. Their son continued to self-destruct, going down the path of drug use, theft, and other offenses. Rehab, jail, family interventions provided no changes. Church and God didn't interest him. The parents made the tough-love decision to tell their son that he could no longer come home.

Several years later, the father died. The son couldn't attend the funeral because he was in jail. Time passed. The son asked to come home. "I have changed, Mom." Initially, the mom told him no but later opened the door for his homecoming. The son sat in his dad's recliner reading the Bible and crying for nine months. He started going to the church that wasn't good enough for him earlier and started teaching the SS class for elderly men. He loved the men and they loved him. This was the Lord's doing! His life had TRULY turned around. What a powerful testimony of God's love!

1. It is THE LORD who changes hearts and draws us close to Him.
2. Remembering what God has done strengthens our faith for today!

CHALLENGE: Examine YOUR Hard Thing.

- What is it that only God can do? How is He leading you to pray?
- What stories and testimonies can strengthen your faith and endurance to pray and not give up hope while God works?



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The concern in Ezra 9 is spiritual **Compromise** and covenantal **Unfaithfulness**.

Compromise and the People of God ...

- I. Compromise exists when God's People cease being **Distinct** (Ezra 9:1-4)
Cp. Lev. 20:26; Deut. 7:3-4; Rom. 12:2; 1 Pet. 1:15-16; Jn. 17:15
- II. Compromises of the **Past** often **Linger** into the Future (Ezra 9:2-4)
Cp. Song of Solomon 2:15; Heb. 2:1; 1 Cor. 5:6
- III. **Grief** is a Proper Response over the **Sin** of the People of God (Ezra 9:3-5)
Cp. Psalm 51:4; 2 Cor. 7:10
- IV. Genuine **Confession** becomes Fertile Ground for **Repentance** and **Restoration** (Ezra 9:5-15)
Cp. 1 John 1:9; Prov. 28:13; Ps. 32:5; James 5:16
- V. God's **Grace** is a Great **Motivator** toward Repentance (Ezra 9:8-9)
Cp. Romans 2:9
- VI. The **Gospel** Provides us the **Hope** that Ezra only Looked Forward to (Ezra 9:15)
Cp. 2 Cor. 5:21; Philipians 3:9; 1 Peter 3:18

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