

## **Galatians 6:11-15 – Pressure to Compromise!**

Calvin, Gaebelien, TSK, GreekLexicon, Henry, Trapp, Robertson, Family, PNT, Poole, JFB, Geneva, Expositor, Clarke, Barnes, Abbot, Rienecker  
Brothers and Sisters in Jesus Christ: If a man wants to eat hamburgers and his wife wants to eat chicken, they compromise and eat chicken. If a man wants to sleep late and his wife wants to wake up early and go antiquing, they compromise and go antiquing.

But **those are not big compromises**...More importantly, **those are not compromises to do wrong**.

In our sermon today you will hear Apostle Paul making an impassioned plea for Galatians to stand up to the pressure to **compromise in doctrine and life!**

Our headings are:

**Pressure to Compromise: The Reminder**

**Pressure to Compromise: The Resistance**

Our goals are:

**That you will hold on to the truth of the Gospel against all odds and opposition, knowing that this is the only ground for pleasing God and having a good future.**

### **Pressure to Compromise: The Reminder**

11 See with what **large letters** I have **written to you with my own hand!**

**1. While Apostle Paul often used a letter writer for his letters, this time he took the pen in his own hand to authenticate and emphasize what he was going to say.**

You can see this in 1Corinthians, Colossians, and 2Thessalonians also.

**And in fact, he wrote using large letters, which further emphasized the words he was saying.** (Just like you might put something in bold letters for emphasis!)

12 As many as desire to **make a good showing in the flesh**, these would compel you to be circumcised, only that they may not suffer persecution for the cross of Christ. 13 For not even those who are circumcised keep the law, but **they desire to have you circumcised that they may boast in your flesh.**

**2. Apostle Paul warned the Galatian Christians to watch out for those who were pretending to be godly (literally “making a fair show”), according to the Jewish standards, but they weren’t godly, according to God’s standards.**

Why did they do this?

**First, the Judaizers were playing a “numbers” game, trying to see how many “converts” they could get back to Judaism... while still claiming to be Christian.** They wanted to know “how many circumcisions” took place. They were like trophy hunters and ribbon collectors!

They were like the Billy Graham crusades which show thousands of conversions, only to not be true.

**You see this illustrated when people start on a particular diet.** They want everyone to join them. They may do this (though not always) to validate their own actions. They want to look good.

**Second, these men had sinful pride.**

They wanted to do **like David** who went and numbered Israel, in direct opposition to God. Their pride had swollen.

**This was to the pleasure of the Judaizers.**

They wanted to keep their influence!

**Third, these Jews’ religion was a “works” religion, believing one had to be circumcised to be saved.**

This was the cornerstone of their religion.

**Fourth, these Judaizers *persevered in their error, teaching men they could be saved by circumcision, because they did not want to be persecuted for proclaiming the cross as the means of salvation.***

The Jews could have accepted Jesus based on his teaching of love and service, **but when the cross put salvation out of the hands of people, they could not take it.** They deferred back to their practice of circumcision.

**So this was “a good showing in the flesh” and they could boast about it!** It was profitable to the Judaizers.

**3. The Judaizers became more believable because the Galatians, many of whom were Gentile Celts, thought of salvation by grace alone, through faith alone, in Christ alone seemed like foolishness to them.**

1 Corinthians 1:23 but we preach Christ crucified, to the Jews a stumbling block and to the Greeks foolishness,

#### **4. Lessons:**

**a. Be bold against politicians who pretend to care about you but they only do what is necessary to ensure they get re-elected.** They would tell you whatever you

want to hear, but for their benefit.  
These men are extremely dangerous.  
You must be warned about these frauds.  
Don't listen to them.  
Don't support them.  
Resist the pressure to be conservative or liberal.

**b. Be bold with God's people and speak up when they are being deceived.**

You might make them angry, but love for others, even to personal loss, must make you speak up.

Resist the pressure to be polite and ignore it when people are being deceived.

**c. Be bold and confront false teachers.**

**Be careful they don't take over your life...obsessing over them...but if you have opportunity to meet Joel Osteen, tell him to stop talking about self-esteem and start talking about sin, faith, and repentance.**

These men will make a shipwreck of your faith!

**d. Be bold, confront, and reject those who advocate for compromise as a means of survival.**

Merging faith and works is deadly. Merging anything with faith is deadly. The church will survive – even thrive- without having to compromise.

**e. Reject the pressure to compromise with these prostitutes (numbers game, pride, positions of influence) that these false teachers ran after.**

If you don't, you will have to water down the Gospel.

You will have to change your godly life.

The goal is **not to get the church to large numbers**. It is to get **the church to be godly**.

The goal is **not to get bragging rights for a bigger church**. It is to **make men worship God**.

The goal is **not to boast about the number of conversions**. It is to **lead to true salvation by faith alone, through grace alone, in Christ alone**.

**Pressure to Compromise: The Resistance**

14 But God **forbid that I should boast except in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ**, by whom the world has been **crucified to me, and I to the world**.

**1. Apostle Paul challenged the Galatians Christians to do as he did and *not boast about their circumcision, but boast about the fact that Christ became their circumcision on the cross.***

And notice how Apostle Paul used the full name for Jesus (*our Lord Jesus Christ*), to show the Lord's complete ownership of salvation. Yes, in the past he gloried in his own flesh and his accomplishments!

Philippians 3:3 For we are the circumcision, who worship God in the Spirit, rejoice in Christ Jesus, and have no confidence in the flesh, 4 though I also might have confidence in the flesh. If anyone else thinks he may have confidence in the flesh, I more so: 5 circumcised the eighth day, of the stock of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, a Hebrew of the Hebrews; concerning the law, a Pharisee; 6 concerning zeal, persecuting the church; concerning the righteousness which is in the law, blameless.

After he met Jesus, all this ritual life passed away. The world and its lifestyle became dead to him.

Romans 4:25 who **was delivered up because of our offenses, and was raised because of our justification.**

**2. What did Apostle Paul do to set an example to the Galatians?**

**a. Apostle Paul was Jewish**, the direct descendant of Abraham who received direct revelation from God, but he did not boast about his ethnic origin. (The church in Galatian was made up of some rowdy Celts.)

**b. Apostle Paul was Roman**, and not by purchasing Roman citizenry, but by birth, yet he did not boast about that. This gained him much respect wherever he went, but that was not his focus.

**c. Apostle Paul was an orator, something cherished in those days**, and people listened to him, but he did not boast about that either.

**d. Apostle Paul, though he was circumcised on the 8<sup>th</sup> day like a good Jew was, did not boast in his circumcision.** Yes, before he was just like the Judaizers, but he changed! His heart was circumcised.

**e. Apostle Paul was taught by the highest-level teachers, but he did not boast in his knowledge.**

Philippians 3:7-8 - But what things were gain to me, these I have counted loss for Christ. Yet indeed I also count all things loss for the excellence of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord, for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and **count them as rubbish**, that I may gain Christ

**f. Apostle Paul, because of the doctrine of grace and of a crucified Christ, denied the riches, honors, pleasures, profits, and applause of the world; which were to him as dross, in comparison with the knowledge of Christ Jesus his Lord.**

He wasn't afraid of beatings...as the Judaizers were.

He cared not for the world!

Apostle Paul did not care whether the world care for him or not!

**3. Because of Christ's crucifixion for sinners, the world was "crucified to him" and "he was crucified to the world."**

Those who did not bear the cross of Christ in their testimony, were denying the cross in their words.

15 For in Christ Jesus **neither circumcision nor uncircumcision avails anything**, but a new creation.

**4. Apostle Paul reminded the Galatians to resist the pressure to compromise and be circumcised as it was the clean, new creation from the inside, done by the circumcising of the heart, that brought new life.**

This was the work done by the Holy Spirit, rather than a flint knife.

**5. Apostle Paul pointed out that circumcision, and uncircumcision were nothing.**

Circumcision was no longer helpful as a command, a type, or a privilege in the business of salvation. It was abolished by Christ.

**But God worked in man and made him new, a new creation.** (Rabbinical term.)

This is an internal principle of grace, a good work of God begun in the soul.

**It is this new creation that makes man a child again and makes him fit for heaven.**

Apostle Paul is very positive. He gave them the answer: Only the glory in Christ truly matters in the end.

**6. Lessons:**

**a. Calvin wrote: Where man's highest good is, there is his glory.** So don't glory in yourself because your greatest good is in the cross and the cross alone.

**b. Do you feel bad if the world does not care for you?** You should not. The world may only pretend to like you, but it hates you. It can't love you. It may just tolerate you. Be ready to lose friends or family.

**c. Do you feel upset if Christian brothers attack you for focusing on the cross alone and shunning human action in your salvation?** Don't be. That would rob God. That will cramp your reward.

**d. If you want to serve the Lord, follow him to the cross!**

He **brought you righteousness and holiness – free** to an impoverished you!

He **gave you honor.**

He **secured your pardon.**

He **reconciled you with a God who was angry with you!**

**Don't claim church membership, kinship** with Christians, or **tithing** as helping with your salvation.

**There is nothing else in which you could boast.**

**Boast in your inabilities.**

**Boast in the abilities, love, and promises of Jesus.**

**e. Your greatest honor is you were saved by Christ.** This is your motivation to refuse to compromise.

**Don't run to another church because you would have more influence or honor.**

**Focus on Christ's honor.**

### **Conclusion:**

The Galatians were pressured by the Judaizers to compromise, but they were warned and encouraged by Apostle Paul to resist the temptation to compromise.

Yes, it might have been good for their pleasure and profit, but it would have been bad for their souls.

Brothers and Sisters in Jesus:

**1. Hold on to the truth of Gospel – that Jesus went to the cross for you.** Because you have received that, you have already passed from life to death and heading to eternal glory.

**2. Resist when people try to water down the Gospel, trying to promote human excellence as a necessary co-worker in your salvation.**

The French Enlightenment darkened the wonder of the Light of the World and the beauty of the Gospel. The French Enlightenment continue to hurt Western Christians today!

**3. Proclaim this Gospel of the cross to the world! “Say, Jesus paid it all! All to him you owe.”** This will bring true liberation to those who are in captivity.

Finally: If you don't know Christ, you are lost! You are worse than a ship with a dead engine, trying to navigate a Category 5 hurricane.

But God can take you out if you look to the cross. That was where Jesus died for sinners.