



Power From on High

Series: Power From On High

Text: Acts 21:23-26

Title: The Need for Compromise
Part 3

Date: November 30, 2025

Lesson: 117

Acts 21:23–24 “Therefore do this that we tell you. We have four men who are under a vow; 24 take them and purify yourself along with them, and pay their expenses so that they may shave their heads; and all will know that there is nothing to the things which they have been told about you, but that you yourself also **walk orderly, keeping the Law.**

There are two types of compromise:

1. _____ **compromise**

An unbiblical compromise surrenders _____
Christian truth to please people, accommodate culture or avoid
conflict and persecution.

2. _____ **compromise** (Strategic accommodation)

Godly compromise or strategic accommodation is the freedom
believers have in Christ to make personal choices on
_____ matters that the Bible neither
commands nor forbids, as long as we don't cause another to
stumble.

20 And when they heard it they began glorifying God; and they said to him, “You see, brother, how many thousands there are among the **Jews** of those who have believed, and they are all zealous for the Law; 21 and they have been told about you, that you are teaching all the **Jews** who are among the Gentiles to forsake Moses, telling them not to circumcise their children nor to walk according to the customs.

25 “But concerning the **Gentiles** who have believed, we wrote, having decided that they should abstain from meat sacrificed to idols and from blood and from what is strangled and from fornication.”

26 Then Paul took the men, and the next day, purifying himself along with them, went into the temple giving notice of the completion of the days of purification, until the sacrifice was offered for each one of them.

The New Testament repeatedly emphasizes unity as a core theme.

John 17:20–23 I do not ask on behalf of these alone, but for those also who believe in Me through their word; that they may all be one; even as You, Father, are in Me and I in You, that they also may be in Us, so that the world may believe that You sent Me. 22 “The glory which You have given Me I have given to them, **that they may be one**, just as We are one; 23 I in them and You in Me, that they may be **perfected in unity**, so that the world may know that You sent Me, and loved them, even as You have loved Me.

Philippians 2:1–4 Therefore if there is any encouragement in Christ, if there is any consolation of love, if there is any fellowship of the Spirit, if any affection and compassion, 2 make my joy complete by being of the **same mind**, maintaining the **same love**, **united in spirit**, intent on **one purpose**.

Godly compromise includes five principles:

1. It is _____

2. It is _____

3. It is _____

4. It includes _____

5. It also includes _____

Rom. 14:1-23; 1 Cor. 8:1-13; 9:19-23; 10:24-33;
Galatians 5:13-15; Col. 2:16-17; 1 Pet. 2:16

Total of _____ **verses**

Passage	Topic / Context	Principle on Christian Liberty
Rom. 14:1-23	Differences in food, drink, and sacred days	Do not judge others; act in love; seek peace and mutual edification.

1 Cor. 8:1–13	Eating food offered to idols	Knowledge must be tempered by love; avoid causing weaker believers to stumble.
1 Cor. 9:19–23	Paul's personal ministry flexibility	Freedom can be voluntarily limited to serve others and advance the gospel.
1 Cor. 10:24–33	Responsible use of freedom	Do all things for the benefit of others and to glorify God.
Gal. 5:13–15	Freedom from the law	Liberty is for loving service, not indulgence in the flesh.
Col. 2:16–17	Food, drink, festivals, Sabbath	Do not allow others to impose legalistic restrictions; these point to Christ.
1 Pet. 2:16	Living as free people	Freedom must never be a cover for evil; it should honor God.

1 Corinthians 8:1 Now concerning things sacrificed to idols, we know that we all have knowledge. Knowledge makes arrogant, but love edifies.

9 But take care that this liberty of yours does not somehow become a stumbling block to the weak.

There are two types of believers

1. Those who understand **“liberty”**
2. Those who are **“weak”**

John 16:12 “I have many more things to say to you, but you cannot bear them now.

Liberty is a function of _____.

10 For if someone sees you, who have knowledge, dining in an idol’s temple, will not his conscience, if he is weak, be strengthened to eat things sacrificed to idols?

“conscience”

Romans 14:23 But he who doubts is condemned if he eats, because his eating is not from faith; and whatever is not from faith is **sin**.

There are three categories of sin:

1. Sins of _____

A sin of omission is the failure to do what God commands.

2. Sins of _____

A sin of commission is to act in a way that God has forbidden.

3. Sins of _____

A sin of the conscience is when a believer violates their own moral convictions causing inner guilt and spiritual distress.

11 For through your knowledge he who is weak is ruined, the brother for whose sake Christ died.

“ruined” [apollymai] - **ESV** “destroyed” - **KJV** “perish”

“for whose sake Christ died”

Romans 14:20 Do not tear down the work of God for the sake of food. ***All things indeed are clean***, but they are ***evil*** for the man who eats and gives offense.

12 And so, by sinning against the brethren and wounding their conscience when it is weak, you sin against Christ.

13 Therefore, if food causes my brother to stumble, I will never eat meat again, so that I will not cause my brother to stumble.

1 Corinthians 9:19 For though I am free from all men, I have made myself a slave to all, so that I may win more.

“free from all men”

“slave” [doulos]

“win more”

Paul believed that God is sovereign over salvation.

Romans 8:28–30 And we know that **God** causes all things to work together for good to those who love God, to those who are **called** according to **His** purpose. 29 For those whom **He foreknew, He** also **predestined** to become conformed to the image of His Son, so that **He** would be the firstborn among many brethren; 30 and these whom **He predestined, He also called**; and these whom **He called, He also justified**; and these whom **He justified, He also glorified**.

Rom. 9:11, 15–16; Eph. 1:4–5, 11; 2:8–9; 1 Cor. 1:26–31

But Paul also believed that if he made himself a slave he might “win more” to Christ

Paul was missionally _____, but not theologically compromising.

20 To the Jews I became as a Jew, so that I might win Jews; to those who are under the Law, as under the Law though not being myself under the Law, so that I might win those who are under the Law;

“as a Jew” - “not being myself under the Law”

21 to those who are without law, as without law, though not being without the law of God but under **the law of Christ**, so that I might win those who are without law

22 To the weak I became weak, that I might win the weak;

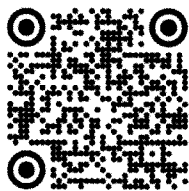
I have become all things to all men, so that I may by all means save some.

23 I do all things for the sake of the gospel, so that I may become a fellow partaker of it.

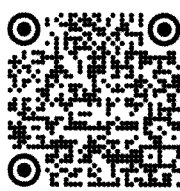
The spiritually strong should exercise love toward the weak, and the weak need to mature so they can enjoy the spiritual freedoms they have in Christ.

Discussion Guide

1. What is the difference between a strong and weak believer and why is it important that we understand the difference?
2. Can you share a time when someone's exercise of freedom negatively affected your faith or how your exercise of liberty affected someone else? How either one have been handled differently?
3. What is pragmatism and as it relates to evangelism, what would be a negative and positive form of pragmatism?
4. How do we balance exercising our liberty with sensitivity to others' conscience?



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ANSWERS: Ungodly, essential, Godly, disputable, contextual, purpose-driven, sacrificial, participation, non-participation, Christian Liberty, 57, maturity, omission, commission, conscience, pragmatic,