

PUTTING AWAY SIN **(Ezra 10)**

CHURCH APPLICATION

- Christians are not be partnered with unbelievers
(2 Corinthians 6:14-18)
- this applies to various sorts of unions and fellowships
 - 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:
 - exercise simple obedience in obvious situations
 - 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)