

Study Guide

Message: Compromised Leaders of the Church

Messenger: Pastor Keith

Date: June 29, 2025

Scripture: Malachi 2.7-9 (NKJV)



Objective: to examine ourselves to make sure we are not moving toward compromised pastoral leadership.

Points to the Message:

1. _____ of the Priest: v7. For the lips of a priest should keep knowledge, and people should seek the law from his mouth; for he is the messenger of the Lord of hosts.
 - Priest – ‘lips of the priest should keep knowledge’
 - People – ‘and people should seek the law from his mouth;’
 - Position – ‘he is the messenger of the Lord of hosts’

Reference: Jeremiah 3.15

Reflection: Do you view the Pastor as God’s messenger and the words He speak the commands of God?

2. _____ of the Priests: v8. But you have departed from the way; you have caused many to stumble at the law. You have corrupted the covenant of Levi,’ says the Lord of hosts.
 - Compromised the truth – ‘But you have departed from the way;’
 - Confused the people – ‘you have caused many to stumble at the law’
 - Contempt for the covenant – ‘You have corrupted the covenant of Levi, says the Lord of hosts.’

Reflection: How would you know if the Pastor has deviated from the truth of God’s Word?

God’s warning against syncretism – combining different beliefs that compromises to distort the original truth.

Reflection: Is there anything in your life that’s been mixed with the culture - an attitude, habit, associations, or influences that’s causing you to compromise the gospel and your walk with Christ? References: Exodus 34.12, 2 Corinthians 6.14

Compromised churches:

- a) Truth mixed with Tolerance - The church softens the truth of the gospel for the sake of tolerance, trading holiness for acceptance.

- b) Reverence mixed with Performance - The church focus drifts from God's glory to stage presence, talent, or creativity. Reference John 4.24
 - c) Calling mixed with Business – The church sacred calling becomes a business model - the truth of the gospel gets sold out.
 - d) Cross mixed with Comfort – The church mix comfort of this world with the cross, watering down the cost to follow Christ. Reference Luke 9.23
 - e) Evangelism mixed with Activism – The church aligns itself with social movements and political parties that compromises the urgency of preaching the gospel. I Corinthians 2.2, Acts 17.30
3. _____ on the Priest: v9. Therefore, I also have made you contemptible and base before all the people, because you have not kept my ways but have shown partiality in the law. (NKJV)
- Dishonor – 'I also have made you contemptible
 - Disgrace – 'base before all the people'
 - Decree – 'because you have *not kept my ways* but have shown *partiality* in the law.'

Reflection: How should you pray for your pastoral leadership?

Purity of the Church – Acts 2.42-27

1. _____ to the pillars of the church – v42. 'They devoted themselves to the apostle doctrine, fellowship, breaking bread, and prayers, v43. Then fear.....many wonders and signs were done through the apostles.
2. _____ of possessions – v44. all who believed were together and had all things in common. v46. and sold their possessions and goods and divided them among all as anyone had need.
3. _____ unity in fellowship – v46. continuing daily with one accord in the temple, and breaking bread from house to house, they ate their food with gladness and simplicity of heart, praising God and having favour with all the people.

We spend intentional time together, and share life, support each other, and grow in our walk with Christ. In doing so, we become stronger - not for ourselves, but so our fellowship can be a power witness for to the world.'

4. _____ growth – v47. And the Lord added to the church daily those who were being saved.

Reflection: Name three ways to help our church to remain pure from compromise.