

# **Genesis 19:1-11—Lot's Compromise With The World Destroys Himself And His Family**

## **Memory Verse**

Genesis 15:6 NLT—*Justification by faith*

And Abram believed the LORD, and the LORD counted him as righteous because of his faith.

## **Outline (Genesis 19:1-11)**

1. Lot has become a leader in the wicked city of Sodom—the danger of compromising with the world (v 1a)
2. Lot entertains the angels (vs 1-3)
3. The absolute wickedness and depravity of Sodom and Gomorrah is revealed (vs 4-11)
4. The sin of Sodom as a sign of the last days before Jesus's Second Coming

## **Introduction**

In Genesis chapter 18, God and two angels appear to Abraham in human form. God tells Abraham that the promised son (Isaac) would be born in 9 months time (according to the time of life). Abraham entertains them, blessing them with warm and generous Middle Eastern hospitality. The two angels then start making their way towards wicked Sodom where Lot lives. Abraham stayed with the LORD, pleading and interceding for them, that God would spare them from the coming judgement. Now in Genesis chapter 19 we see God displaying mercy to Lot and his family, who are so backslidden or immature as believers that they don't even want to leave Sodom, even though that know that its destruction is imminent. We see in the men of Sodom wickedness so great that we can fully understand exactly why God had to destroy them.

## **Genesis 19:1-38 NKJV**

### ***Sodom's Depravity***

**Now the two angels came to Sodom in the evening, and Lot was sitting in the gate of Sodom. When Lot saw them, he rose to meet them, and he bowed himself with his face toward the ground. <sup>2</sup> And he said, "Here now, my lords, please turn in to your servant's house and spend the night, and wash your feet; then you may rise early and go on your way."**

**And they said, "No, but we will spend the night in the open square."**

**<sup>3</sup> But he insisted strongly; so they turned in to him and entered his house. Then he made them a feast, and baked unleavened bread, and they ate.**

**<sup>4</sup> Now before they lay down, the men of the city, the men of Sodom, both old and young, all the people from every quarter, surrounded the house. <sup>5</sup> And they called to Lot and said to him, "Where are the men who came to you tonight? Bring them out to us that we may know them carnally."**

**<sup>6</sup> So Lot went out to them through the doorway, shut the door behind him, <sup>7</sup> and said, "Please, my brethren, do not do so wickedly! <sup>8</sup> See now, I have two daughters who have not known a man; please, let me bring them out to you, and you may do to them as you wish; only do nothing to these men, since this is the reason they have come under the shadow of my roof."**

**<sup>9</sup> And they said, "Stand back!" Then they said, "This one came in to stay here, and he keeps acting as a judge; now we will deal worse with you than with them." So they pressed hard against the man Lot, and came near to break down the door.**

<sup>10</sup> But the men reached out their hands and pulled Lot into the house with them, and shut the door. <sup>11</sup> And they struck the men who were at the doorway of the house with blindness, both small and great, so that they became weary trying to find the door.

### ***Sodom and Gomorrah Destroyed***

<sup>12</sup> Then the men said to Lot, “Have you anyone else here? Son-in-law, your sons, your daughters, and whomever you have in the city—take them out of this place!

<sup>13</sup> For we will destroy this place, because the outcry against them has grown great before the face of the LORD, and the LORD has sent us to destroy it.”

<sup>14</sup> So Lot went out and spoke to his sons-in-law, who had married his daughters, and said, “Get up, get out of this place; for the LORD will destroy this city!” But to his sons-in-law he seemed to be joking.

<sup>15</sup> When the morning dawned, the angels urged Lot to hurry, saying, “Arise, take your wife and your two daughters who are here, lest you be consumed in the punishment of the city.” <sup>16</sup> And while he lingered, the men took hold of his hand, his wife’s hand, and the hands of his two daughters, the LORD being merciful to him, and they brought him out and set him outside the city. <sup>17</sup> So it came to pass, when they had brought them outside, that he said, “Escape for your life! Do not look behind you nor stay anywhere in the plain. Escape to the mountains, lest you be destroyed.”

<sup>18</sup> Then Lot said to them, “Please, no, my lords! <sup>19</sup> Indeed now, your servant has found favour in your sight, and you have increased your mercy which you have shown me by saving my life; but I cannot escape to the mountains, lest some evil overtake me and I die. <sup>20</sup> See now, this city is near enough to flee to, and it is a little one; please let me escape there (is it not a little one?) and my soul shall live.”

<sup>21</sup> And he said to him, “See, I have favoured you concerning this thing also, in that I will not overthrow this city for which you have spoken. <sup>22</sup> Hurry, escape there. For I cannot do anything until you arrive there.”

Therefore the name of the city was called Zoar.

<sup>23</sup> The sun had risen upon the earth when Lot entered Zoar. <sup>24</sup> Then the LORD rained brimstone and fire on Sodom and Gomorrah, from the LORD out of the heavens.

<sup>25</sup> So He overthrew those cities, all the plain, all the inhabitants of the cities, and what grew on the ground.

<sup>26</sup> But his wife looked back behind him, and she became a pillar of salt.

<sup>27</sup> And Abraham went early in the morning to the place where he had stood before the LORD. <sup>28</sup> Then he looked toward Sodom and Gomorrah, and toward all the land of the plain; and he saw, and behold, the smoke of the land which went up like the smoke of a furnace. <sup>29</sup> And it came to pass, when God destroyed the cities of the plain, that God remembered Abraham, and sent Lot out of the midst of the overthrow, when He overthrew the cities in which Lot had dwelt.

### ***Lot’s daughters commit incest with their dad***

<sup>31</sup> Then Lot went up out of Zoar and dwelt in the mountains, and his two daughters were with him; for he was afraid to dwell in Zoar. And he and his two daughters dwelt in a cave. <sup>31</sup> Now the firstborn said to the younger, “Our father is old, and there is no man on the earth to come in to us as is the custom of all the earth. <sup>32</sup> Come, let us make our father drink wine, and we will lie with him, that we may preserve the lineage of our father.” <sup>33</sup> So they made their father drink wine that night. And the firstborn went in and lay with her father, and he did not know when she lay down or when she arose.

<sup>34</sup> It happened on the next day that the firstborn said to the younger, “Indeed I lay with my father last night; let us make him drink wine tonight also, and you go in and lie with him, that we may preserve the lineage of our father.” <sup>35</sup> Then they made their father drink wine that night also. And the younger arose and lay with him, and he did not know when she lay down or when she arose.

<sup>36</sup> Thus both the daughters of Lot were with child by their father. <sup>37</sup> The firstborn bore a son and called his name Moab; he is the father of the Moabites to this day.

<sup>38</sup> And the younger, she also bore a son and called his name Ben-Ammi; he is the father of the people of Ammon to this day.

## **1. Lot has become a leader in the wicked city of Sodom—the danger of compromising with the world**

Genesis 19:1a NKJV

Now the two angels came to Sodom in the evening, and Lot was sitting in the gate of Sodom.

v 1 **Now the two angels came to Sodom in the evening:** These are the two “men” who had come with the LORD to visit Abraham (See Genesis 18:1-2). Here is the first time that they are identified as angels. They have arrived at Sodom in the evening after spending most of the day with Abraham.

v 1 **And Lot was sitting in the gate of Sodom:** This phrase is indicative of the progression of sin in Lot’s life. Here is the sad story of Lot’s life—a life of continued compromise. We will see that there are three stages to compromise, each of which are clearly illustrated by Lot’s story. This is important because it shows us the consequences of the choices we make. We’ll read Genesis 13:10-13 to get the back story.

Genesis 13:10-11 NKJV

**And Lot lifted his eyes and saw all the plain of Jordan**, that it was well watered everywhere (before the LORD destroyed Sodom and Gomorrah) like the garden of the LORD, like the land of Egypt as you go toward Zoar. <sup>11</sup> **Then Lot chose for himself all the plain of Jordan, and Lot journeyed east.** And they separated from each other. <sup>12</sup> Abram dwelt in the land of Canaan, and Lot dwelt in the cities of the plain and pitched his tent even as far as Sodom. <sup>13</sup> **But the men of Sodom were exceedingly wicked and sinful against the LORD.**

### 1. Lot looked towards Sodom (see Genesis 13:10)

This happened when Lot and Abraham’s shepherds (their servants) had a large amount of livestock and were fighting between themselves over limited pasture—there just wasn’t enough grass for all their flocks and herds combined. Therefore, Abraham told Lot that they should separate from each other. Abraham gave up his rights as the elder, and gave Lot the first choice. Lot made his choice based on how much money he could make, not what was best for his family. The land of the plain was well watered, green and lush—in fact so productive and beautiful that the Bible describes it as being like the garden of Eden.

### 2. Lot soon ended up living in Sodom (see Genesis 13:11-13)

The cities of the plain were the the perfect place for raising livestock, but the very worst place for raising kids. Why? “**The men of Sodom were exceedingly wicked and sinful against the LORD**”, which meant that this was the very worse place for raising a family—in fact the very last place a godly husband and father would bring his family.

Many fathers (and mothers) have made this bad choice. You may have heard some say: this school provides the best career opportunity for my child, or, this sporting program will give my child the greatest chance of success in their chosen sport, or, we need to move to a certain place or city so I can get my promotion. But what about what is best for the spiritual development of the wife and children? Where can I live where my wife and children will be around godly people who will influence them in a positive way, who will point them to Jesus. *The father's (or mother's if you are a single mum) first responsibility is to provide the best environment they can that fosters spiritual growth, not sporting prowess, academic excellence, or financial gain etc. The priorities of a Christian should be very different to that of a unbeliever.* The definitions of success in the world (the kingdom of satan) are very different to those of the kingdom of God. The father's responsibility is to protect his family from evil or worldly influences where possible. Consider that today's public schools are like Sodom.

3. Lot eventually ended up as a leader or town elder in the town of Sodom (See Genesis 19:1)

This is what it means when it says that “**Lot was sitting in the gate of Sodom**”. The city gate, the main entrance to the city, was where court cases were held, financial transactions were made, and the important people of the city met to make decisions. This means that Lot not only lived in Sodom, but also that there was complete and total social integration of Lot and his family with the wicked citizens of Sodom. His wife would have had to make friends with ungodly women, and as we know, she was majorly influenced by them in a very negative way—she absolutely did not want to leave Sodom (as we will see later).

Also, Lot's two daughters would have been educated in Sodom's schools, and taught Sodom's worldly standards (again, just like most of today's public schools). We will see later just how warped, evil, and worldly their thinking had become. We will also see that their immorality was also passed onto their two sons, with the two nations that descended from them becoming wicked nations, following in the footsteps of their worldly mothers—all because of Lot's bad choice to make raising cattle more important than raising children.

Lot, to be a leader in Sodom, would have had to stoop to their very worldly moral standards, otherwise he would not have been accepted by the other wicked men. It's amazing what people will do just to be accepted by others. Most disappointing is what individual believers and many churches do as they try desperately to be accepted by the world: they go out of their way so as to not offend anyone—and so the glorious Gospel—which is by nature offensive to the sinful human nature—is put aside! As believers, we need to be God pleasers, not man pleasers. Like Lot, when we choose worldly friends, then we will inevitably end up trying to please them, to fit in with them, so as to find acceptance by them (instead of God).

Galatians 1:10 AMP

Now am I trying to win the favour of men, or of God? Do I seek to please men? If I were still seeking popularity with men, I should not be a bond servant of Christ (the Messiah).

1 Thessalonians 2:4-6 NLT

For we speak as messengers approved by God to be entrusted with the Good News. Our purpose is to please God, not people. He alone examines the motives of our hearts. <sup>5</sup> Never once did we try to win you with flattery, as you well know. And God is our witness that we were not pretending to be your friends just to get your money! <sup>6</sup> As for human praise, we have never sought it from you or anyone else.

Psalm 1 gives a good description of what happened to Lot.

Psalm 1:1-3 NKJV

Blessed is the man who **walks not in the counsel of the ungodly, nor stands in the path of sinners, nor sits in the seat of the scornful**; <sup>2</sup> But his delight is in the law of the LORD, and in His law he meditates day and night.

<sup>3</sup> He shall be like a tree planted by the rivers of water, that brings forth its fruit in its season, whose leaf also shall not wither; and whatever he does shall prosper.

- We could say that when Lot looked towards Sodom, he was walking **in the counsel of the ungodly**—he listened to unwise advice (the greedy desires of his own deceitful heart).
- We could say that when Lot moved to Sodom, he was standing **in the path of sinners**—he was now accepting of and putting up with the wicked ways of Sodom.
- We could say that when Lot became a leader in Sodom, he sat **in the seat of the scornful**—his attitude changed and he began to scorn those who lived a righteous life.

We can clearly see the differences between Lot and Abraham.

- Abraham did not walk **in the counsel of the ungodly** (he didn't follow the sinful desires of his desperately wicked and deceitful heart). Abraham had previously decided that having a godly family was far more valuable or worthwhile than increasing his wealth.
- Abraham also kept himself separate from the sinful people who lived in Sodom, he did not **stand in the path of sinners**. Therefore his household was not influenced to do evil.
- Abraham did not **sit in the seat of the scornful**. Because Abraham chose not to listen to ungodly counsel, and not to associate with ungodly people, his attitude towards God and godly people did not become scornful, bitter, and mocking.

How did Abraham avoid these traps that Lot fell into? He made the deliberate and conscious decision to delight himself in the word of God, to spend time reading it day and night. This made his heart soft and tender towards God, and caused his life to be fruitful and prosperous.

James also gives us an explanation of what happened to Lot at a spiritual level

James 1:13-16 NKJV

Let no one say when he is tempted, I am tempted from God; for God is incapable of being tempted by [what is] evil and He Himself tempts no one.

<sup>14</sup> But every person is tempted when he is drawn away, enticed and baited by his own evil desire (lust, passions).

<sup>15</sup> Then the evil desire, when it has conceived, gives birth to sin, and sin, when it is fully matured, brings forth death.

<sup>16</sup> Do not be misled, my beloved brethren.

- **First**, James tells us that all temptation comes from the evil desires that come from inside of us, from the sinful nature that we are all born with—“**when he is drawn away, enticed and baited by his own evil desire (lust, passions)**”. Lot's evil desire was covetousness, the desire to increase his wealth, no matter what the cost.
- **Second**, if the person chooses to dwell on the sinful thought, then it becomes an action (**it gives birth to sin**). Lot acted on his sinful thought by choosing to move to Sodom.
- **Third**, once the sin has become an established part of a person's life, it will eventually destroy them (**and sin, when it is fully matured, brings forth death**). Once Lot moved into Sodom it was game over for him—it was just a matter of time before He shared in the inevitable physical destruction that God would inflict upon Sodom and the other towns of the plain because of their continued sin—*if we choose to live like the world, we will (practically speaking), suffer the same consequences of sin as the world does.*

Again, we can see this progression in Lot's life. First, the evil thoughts (greed, covetousness). Second, the choice to sin (choosing to associate with ungodly people). Third, the consequences of his sinful choices (Lot lost almost everything—we will soon learn about just how much sin cost Lot). Remember, death for the believer doesn't mean eternity in Hell, but rather a ruined or wasted life, and forfeiting their eternal reward (not their salvation).

### Take every thought (or desire) captive

2 Corinthians 10:3-5 NLT

We are human, but we don't wage war as humans do [using the worldly weapons like manipulation, flattery, coercion, bribery, deceit, etc].<sup>4</sup> We use God's mighty weapons, not worldly weapons, to knock down the strongholds of human reasoning and to destroy false arguments.<sup>5</sup> We destroy every proud obstacle that keeps people from knowing God. We capture... rebellious thoughts [take every thought and desire captive] and teach them to obey Christ.

Why it is so important to take every thought and desire captive? Because every sinful action starts as a sinful thought or desire. If we take the sinful thought or desire captive, meaning we refuse to entertain or consider or think about it anymore, then that sinful pathway is cut off, and the sin will never eventuate or come to pass. This is what genuine repentance looks like—by the power of God at work in us, we first change the way we think, which then leads to a permanent change in behaviour. This is how a believer wins the war against his sinful nature.

There are other *worldly* reasons or motivations as to why we might change our behaviour: fear, manipulation, greed (bribes), pursuit of pleasure etc. But these *human or worldly weapons* don't deal with the root of the problem—*our desires, our thought life, the way we think.* It makes sense that if we don't change the way we think, then eventually the bad behaviour or talk will return when the opportunity to do so returns. Simply put, human ways of changing people only produces temporary results—a temporary change in behaviour—because the original sinful desire was never put to death (never taken captive).

Consider the contrasting examples of Abraham and Lot. Earlier in his life, Abraham, like Lot, was also covetous. In fact, so much so that when he first came into the promised land at age 75, he gave up his wife Sarah to a pagan king, all so that he wouldn't lose his wealth (see Genesis chapter 12:10-20). But later on, after repenting of his sin—after taking every thought captive or choosing to change the way he thought—he instead willingly lived in a tent in the wilderness, willingly forsaking worldly comforts, and trusting God to provide for him. Abraham's change in thinking, his genuine repentance, resulted in a lasting change in behaviour.

Lot on the other hand was different. He, being Abraham's nephew, was obliged to go where Abraham went. Lot also grew rich in Haran and Egypt when Abraham decided to stay in those places (against God's will). Lot also followed Abraham back to the promised land from Egypt after God used the pagan king to discipline Abraham. Abraham repented and worshipped God once again, but Lot never did. There is no mention of Lot ever worshipping God, of repenting of his worldliness and covetousness. Rather, Lot was forced to live in tents, because he (as Abraham's nephew) had to go where Abraham went.

But finally, when Abraham gave Lot the chance to separate from him, Lot's true desires resurfaced—nothing had changed—he was still ruled by his covetous desires. As soon as the opportunity came to live a life of luxury and ease, a life of wealth and indulgence, he took it—Lot chose to live in Sodom in a nice house and wear nice clothes, and eat nice food. For Lot, Sodom offered him everything he wanted and more. Sodom is a picture of the world. In the allegory "Pilgrim's Progress", it is called "Vanity Fair".

## 2. Lot entertains the angels

### **Genesis 19:1-3 NKJV**

Now the two angels came to Sodom in the evening, and Lot was sitting in the gate of Sodom. When Lot saw them, he rose to meet them, and he bowed himself with his face toward the ground. <sup>2</sup> And he said, “Here now, my lords, please turn in to your servant’s house and spend the night, and wash your feet; then you may rise early and go on your way.”

And they said, “No, but we will spend the night in the open square.”

<sup>3</sup> But he insisted strongly; so they turned in to him and entered his house. Then he made them a feast, and baked unleavened bread, and they ate.

Here we see again the typical Middle Eastern hospitality. Lot welcomes the angels, though it’s unclear whether or not he knows that they are actually angels. At this point Lot probably didn’t know.

v 3 **But he insisted strongly; so they turned in to him and entered his house:** Lot knew what would happen to them if they did stay out in the open square, what we would call the centre of town. As a believer, Lot thought differently to the rest of the men of Sodom. We see that Lot was uncomfortable with the state of affairs (as the next verses will show), but that being rich was worth the compromise of living in the midst of such evil.

v 3 **Then he made them a feast, and baked unleavened bread, and they ate:** Lot is physically wealthy but spiritually poor. Lot lives in a large house, and has the resources to prepare a feast and provide accommodation for his guests. We could say that Lot has all the worldly benefits that he could want, but he is living a sinful life as he compromises by associating with the wicked people of Sodom.

## 3. The absolute wickedness and depravity of Sodom and Gomorrah is revealed

### **Genesis 19:4-11 NKJV**

Now before they lay down, the men of the city, the men of Sodom, both old and young, all the people from every quarter, surrounded the house. <sup>5</sup> And they called to Lot and said to him, “Where are the men who came to you tonight? Bring them out to us that we may know them carnally.”

<sup>6</sup> So Lot went out to them through the doorway, shut the door behind him, <sup>7</sup> and said, “Please, my brethren, do not do so wickedly! <sup>8</sup> See now, I have two daughters who have not known a man; please, let me bring them out to you, and you may do to them as you wish; only do nothing to these men, since this is the reason they have come under the shadow of my roof.”

<sup>9</sup> And they said, “Stand back!” Then they said, “This one came in to stay here, and he keeps acting as a judge; now we will deal worse with you than with them.” So they pressed hard against the man Lot, and came near to break down the door.

<sup>10</sup> But the men reached out their hands and pulled Lot into the house with them, and shut the door. <sup>11</sup> And they struck the men who were at the doorway of the house with blindness, both small and great, so that they became weary trying to find the door.

God sent the angels into Sodom to find out what it was like. God already knew, but this is done for our benefit. If this event never happened, we would never have known just how morally bankrupt the men of Sodom were. We would never have understood just how deserving of judgement they were. We would never have been given this example that shows God’s attitude towards sin—He hates it.

v 4 **Now before they lay down, the men of the city, the men of Sodom, both old and young, all the people from every quarter, surrounded the house:** Before Lot and the two angels went to bed that night, literally the whole town had surrounded Lot's house. This tells us that this sexual perversion was wide spread, being practiced by the whole town, with both young and old being guilty.

v 5 **And they called to Lot and said to him, "Where are the men who came to you tonight? Bring them out to us that we may know them carnally."** The men of Sodom made it clear that they wanted to homosexually gang rape the two angels (they didn't know that they were angels—they would have just thought of them as handsome men that they were sexually attracted to).

vs 6-7 **So Lot went out to them through the doorway, shut the door behind him, <sup>7</sup> and said, "Please, my brethren, do not do so wickedly! My brethren...** Lot appeals to the men of sodom as his friends. This is what compromise with the world looks like. Lot tolerated their sinful lifestyle instead of running from it like Abraham did.

v 8 **See now, I have two daughters who have not known a man; please, let me bring them out to you, and you may do to them as you wish; only do nothing to these men, since this is the reason they have come under the shadow of my roof."** Lot's bargaining reveals his own moral decay. Lot still thought that homosexual gang rape was wrong, but that the heterosexual gang rape of his daughters was okay. Really, what was Lot thinking!

Lot justified what would have been the brutal gang rape and eventual murder of his two virgin daughters by saying that he must protect his two visitors, **"only do nothing to these men, since this is the reason they have come under the shadow of my roof."**

v 9a **And they said, "Stand back!" Then they said, "This one came in to stay here, and he keeps acting as a judge; now we will deal worse with you than with them."** This should dispel any fanciful notion that the world will accept believers if only we compromise with them. This whole way of thinking where the church says, "We need to be relevant", or "We need to meet them where they are", or "We need to have common ground if we are going to build relationships with them", is fatally flawed by one thing: *The world hates God, and so the world will not compromise or meet us in the middle at all.*

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*Application: When the church compromises, it only encourages the world to sin more*

When the church compromises, it only hastens the moral decay of the world. As the Scriptures make clear, a compromising church or individual believer is worthless—they lose the respect of the world, and end up having no influence over the world. The only way to bring glory to God is to stand up for the truth instead of trying to hide it—to let our light shine in this dark world.

Matthew 5:13-16 NLT

"You are the salt of the earth. But what good is salt if it has lost its flavour? Can you make it salty again? It will be thrown out and trampled underfoot as worthless.

<sup>14</sup> "You are the light of the world—like a city on a hilltop that cannot be hidden. <sup>15</sup> No one lights a lamp and then puts it under a basket. Instead, a lamp is placed on a stand, where it gives light to everyone in the house. <sup>16</sup> In the same way, let your good deeds shine out for all to see, so that everyone will praise your heavenly Father.

“Whatever the reason for this strange proposal, it did not deter the Sodomites in the least. It only angered them, and made Lot himself the object of their passion. Lot had for some time thought he was at home among the people of the city, even “sitting in the gate.” Now, however, he quickly learned that they had never really accepted him. He had no influence over them whatever under these present conditions, and they resented even the very fact that he had judged their intended action to be morally wrong. *This is almost inevitably the ultimate outcome of a compromising relation between carnal Christians and the world.*” (Henry Morris)

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vs 9b-10 **So they pressed hard against the man Lot, and came near to break down the door. <sup>10</sup> But the men reached out their hands and pulled Lot into the house with them, and shut the door. <sup>11</sup> And they struck the men who were at the doorway of the house with blindness, both small and great, so that they became weary trying to find the door:** If not for the angels protecting Lot, Lot would have been the victim of homosexual gang rape.

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#### *Application: The danger of compromise*

So much for, “**my brethren**” (v 7). Individual Christians and the church can try as hard as they want to be accepted by the world, but they never will be, no matter how much they compromise by being accepting of the world’s sinful ways. Why? Because the world hates God and wants nothing to do with God. When will the church learn that the world will never compromise, that the road called compromise is a one way street? The world can’t compromise—it will never meet us in the middle. Why? Because it’s simply not spiritually possible because of the complete and absolute depravity of the sinful nature we are all born with. The only way an unbeliever will change is when they repent of their sin and put their faith in Jesus. Then the transforming power of God will change them—it’s that simple.

Again, there is an important lesson to be learned here. Any form of compromise with the world is a waste of time. When the church or an individual believer compromises in order to try to connect with the world by being “relevant”, when they try to fit in with the world so as to not offend worldly people, what is the inevitable result? They will never change the hearts of the worldly people—they will only lose their respect.

*Consider that the reason for the success of the early church was that they didn’t compromise with the world—instead they realised that they were of God, that they were called to be different—therefore they earned the respect of the world. Purity equal power; compromise equals weakness.*

#### Acts 5:12-14 NLT

The apostles were performing many miraculous signs and wonders among the people. And all the believers were meeting regularly at the Temple in the area known as Solomon’s Colonnade. <sup>13</sup> **But no one else dared to join them, even though all the people had high regard for them. <sup>14</sup> Yet more and more people believed and were brought to the Lord—crowds of both men and women.**

#### *Homosexuality in society and the church*

Homosexuality has no place in the church. Scripture clearly says that homosexuality, just like any other sexual sin, is wrong.

1 Corinthians 6:9-11 NLT

Don't you realize that those who do wrong will not inherit the Kingdom of God? Don't fool yourselves. Those who indulge in sexual sin, or who worship idols, or commit adultery, or are male prostitutes, or practice homosexuality,<sup>10</sup> or are thieves, or greedy people, or drunkards, or are abusive, or cheat people—none of these will inherit the Kingdom of God.<sup>11</sup> Some of you were once like that. But you were cleansed; you were made holy; you were made right with God by calling on the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and by the Spirit of our God.

“The fact that the old men as well as the young were driven by these lusts, and that, rather than practicing them in secret, they shouted their desires aloud in the streets, adds still another dimension to the enormity of the thing. No wonder God had told Abraham that “the cry of Sodom and Gomorrah is great, and their sin is very grievous” (18:20). In these modern days, after two thousand years of Christian teaching to which the Sodomites never had access, what must God think of the current revival of homosexuality, manifest in “gay liberation” movements and political organisations, and even “gay” religious societies, not only among liberals, but even among some evangelicals?” (Henry Morris)

#### **4. The sin of Sodom as a sign of the last days before Jesus's Second Coming**

Jesus warns us that one of the signs of His soon return would be the return to the wicked lifestyle practiced by the people of the city of Sodom.

Luke 17:26-30 NKJV

And as it was in the days of Noah, so it will be also in the days of the Son of Man: <sup>27</sup> They ate, they drank, they married wives, they were given in marriage, until the day that Noah entered the ark, and the flood came and destroyed them all. <sup>28</sup> Likewise as it was also in the days of Lot: They ate, they drank, they bought, they sold, they planted, they built; <sup>29</sup> but on the day that Lot went out of Sodom it rained fire and brimstone from heaven and destroyed them all. <sup>30</sup> Even so will it be in the day when the Son of Man is revealed.

But it wasn't just because of sexual sin that God judged Sodom and Gomorrah. Consider just how much like Sodom our modern culture has become—and therefore just how ripe and deserving we are of judgement.

Ezekiel 16:49-50 AMP

Behold, this was the iniquity of your sister Sodom: **pride, overabundance of food, prosperous ease, and idleness were hers and her daughters'; neither did she strengthen the hand of the poor and needy.**

<sup>50</sup> And they were haughty and committed abominable offenses before Me; therefore I removed them when I saw it and I saw fit. [Gen. 13:13; 18:20; 19:5.]

God is incredibly patient, but one day His patience will run out. Then judgement will come.

Deuteronomy 29:23 NKJV

'The whole land is brimstone, salt, and burning; it is not sown, nor does it bear, nor does any grass grow there, like the overthrow of Sodom and Gomorrah, Admah, and Zeboiim, which the LORD overthrew in His anger and His wrath.'

Today is the day of Salvation. Today may be your last chance to turn from your sin and turn to God. Don't put it off. One day it will be your last chance, just like it was for the people of Sodom. Jesus died so you can live—choose to accept His free gift of life.