

## Sermon Notes: "The Confessing Church Verses The Compromising Church" 4

Heaven's expectations for the church for society in every age has not changed.

\*The Bible unfolds the purposes and plans of God for the world from the beginning to the end of time.

\*All through the books of the Bible there runs a golden thread from Adam to Christ and beyond . . . Namely, all that God has planned and purposed, He has provided a way and the means for it to come to pass.

\*The same is true with regard to the role of the church and the work that it is to do for His glory. The church of our Lord began with an active role and should have no less an active role today

### "Everything The Church Has Been Asked To Do"

Everything the Church has been asked to do can be classified under one of three categories. 1. **Evangelism** – To Preach Christ. 2. **Edification** – To Practice Christ. 3. **Benevolence** – To Personify Christ.

Any role the church tries to play that does not fit under one of those categories . . . Well, you need to go back to both the drawing board . . . And the Bible.

### "The Church Is Here To Change Society / It Is Not Here To Be Changed By Society "

1. The Bible is the all-inspired Word of God and should never be altered.
2. The will of God for the church in the 1st century is still the will of God for the Church today.
3. The work of the church in the 1st century is the same work the church is to be doing today.

### "Faith . . . And With That We Think Of Faithfulness"

1. Faithful to the Word of God and faithful to the God of the Word.
2. Faithful to the mission Christ left for the church to accomplish. We will have no faith in the mission before us, unless we have faith in the Master behind us!
3. Faithful to defend the Bible . . . Its teachings . . . Its eternal truths.
4. Faithful to reach out to those in need . . . To minister to . . . To lift up . . .

### "We Can Fail In Our Responsibility . . . If And When: "

1. We Look Like The World. 2. Think like the world. 3. Talk like the world.
4. Dress like the world 5. Act Like The World. 6. Embrace The Values Of The World. 7. Treat others like the world treats others. . . 2 Corinthians 6:17 – "Therefore "Come out from among them And be separate, says the Lord. Do not touch what is unclean, And I will receive you." We are not responsible for the generations and societies that are past . . . But we are responsible for the one in which we live. As member of the Church of our Lord Jesus Christ, let us perform our various roles to the society in which we live.

## Sermon Notes: "The Confessing Church Verses The Compromising Church" 1

Members of the '**Confessing Church**' which rose against the Nazi Socialist German Church movement. (Gregor Helm/Wikimedia)



During the days of Nazi Germany there arose a Confessing Church movement that rose against the German Church movement, which became the religious arm of the Fascist Nazi Socialist movement. Of the 18,000 pastors in Germany during that time (from 1933 to 1945), less than 5,000 were

aligned with the Confessing Church. Hence, only a remnant held fast to the biblical position with about half of the churches conforming due to political and societal pressure. Unfortunately, this demonstrates that, when push comes to shove, a large percentage of pastors, churches and so-called Christians will probably bow to pressure and allow the norms of culture to become their credo for Christianity.

### "The Great Divide"

We see the same thing today in churches in the USA and beyond. With the accelerated pace of the attack on religious liberty today, there could develop a great divide in the church between confessing churches and compromising churches similar to what happened in Nazi Germany. This will not be a divide based on denominational affiliation but based on the degree of loyalty to biblical fidelity. It is sad but true that more and more believers will be compromising core biblical values and standards rather than be stigmatized or persecuted, and lose influence in society. In John 12:42-43 we see that many contemporaries of Jesus believed in Him but would not confess Him because they loved the praise of men more than the praise of God. "Yet at the same time many even among the leaders believed in Him. But because of the Pharisees they would not openly acknowledge their faith for fear they would be put out of the synagogue; for they loved human praise more than praise from God."

### "The Following Are Contrasts Between The Confessing Church And The Compromising Church"

1. **In The Confessing Church, Christ Is Over Culture. The compromising church accommodates Christ to culture. The confessing church believes Jesus is Lord over all creation. Hence, they attempt to reflect Christ in every area of culture. The compromising church has a posture of accommodation. Hence, the Christ they believe in and preach is shaped by the culture they live in.**

- The confessing church holds fast to the Word of God in spite of opposition. The compromising church alters the Word of God because of opposition.**
- The confessing church puts the kingdom of God above their culture and ethnicity. The compromising church puts their ethnicity before the kingdom of God. The German Church during the Nazi era put nationalism above the Word of God. Many pastors and believers today view the Scriptures more through the lens of their ethnicity and national heritage than through a proper exegesis of Scripture. If, our nation officially makes biblical Christianity illegal, we would see who will be the confessors and who will be the compromisers.**
- The confessing church alters their methods of preaching. The compromising church alters the message they preach. While it is wise and biblical for the body of Christ to be relevant to culture regarding the preaching of the gospel, it should never put being relevant above being faithful. The compromising church puts being relevant before biblical faithfulness. Hence, they not only change the method of preaching but also the message they preach.**
- The confessing church is a remnant in the minority of church and state. The compromising church wants to be in the mainstream of both church and state. The confessing church endures long seasons of feeling like aliens and strangers in their own communities. The compromising church wants to be in the mainstream of culture more than living in the divine flow of God's favor and presence.**
- The confessing church desires the praise of God. The compromising church desires the praise of men. Ultimately at the end of the day it boils down to this: Are we living for the praise of men or the praise of God? If things don't change in the coming days, we will be shocked at how many megachurches, mid-size churches and smaller churches compromise the Word of God so they could continue to keep their doors open.**

### "The Role Of The Modern Church"

The role of the modern church in the life of the 21st-century believer is critical because it fills a void only the church can. If a car needs fixing, it is brought to the mechanic shop. If someone is sick, the health center or hospital is the best place to seek medical attention. Church is where people should go if they are in need of a "Spiritual Fix." The church is really a hospital for sinners and not an exclusive club for saints. So why would someone want to attend church? Regardless of what is said about churches, people expect that their life problems can be addressed in some fashion or form. With all the weight and pressures of their world weighing down on their minds, people expect the church to provide Bible-based answers that no other institution can provide.

### "Christianity Is Countercultural"



Christ-like love is a beautiful thing. To love unconditionally, regardless of another person's maturity or theological depth or moral purity, is to love like God loves. It reveals a heart transformed by the Gospel. Likewise, true

holiness is a beautiful thing. Avoiding conformity to this world is a sign of a heart satisfied with promises and pleasures found in the Gospel that exceed anything the world can offer. Pure and undefiled Christianity is countercultural. It stands out as radically different from anything we would naturally think or do. Wherever we stand politically or denominationally, the true path of Christianity challenges us to confront the animosity and worldliness found in our own hearts. True Christianity may look to the world like foolishness, but it reveals God's saving power.

### "What Is The Role Of The Church In Today's Society"



The Answer Is The Same Today As It Was In The First Century.

1. We May Have More Gadgets.
2. We May Have More Tools.
3. We May Have More Modernization.
4. We May Have More Ideas And Programs.
5. But . . . We Still Have The Same Role As The Early Church Had.

The Role Is The Same Because The Needs Are The Same Because . . .

1. Every Society Still Needs God!
2. Every Society Still Needs Christ!
3. Every Society Still Needs The Gift Of The Holy Spirit!
4. Every Society Still Needs The Bible!
5. Every Society Still Needs To Be Covered By The Blood Of Christ!
6. Every Society Still Needs Forgiven By Their Sins.
7. Every Society Still Needs To Be Added To The Church!
8. Every Society Still Needs To "Grow In The Grace And Knowledge Of Our Lord And Savior Jesus." 2 Peter 3:18