

Top 10 Reasons Christians Attend a Church That Compromises the Gospel

By Bob Nyberg

1. “There aren’t any Free Grace churches nearby.”

Faulty Logic: While geography is a real challenge, settling into a church that distorts the gospel puts you under constant teaching that can shape thinking over time (Gal. 5:9 — “A little leaven leavens the whole lump”). Distance is inconvenient, but eternal truth is too precious to trade for a short commute.

2. Ignorance of what’s at stake.

Faulty Logic: Many believers don’t realize that Lordship Salvation is not a harmless difference of opinion, but a distortion of the gospel Paul pronounced “anathema” upon (Gal. 1:6–9). What seems like “just a different emphasis” is actually a shift from grace to works. Ignorance doesn’t lessen the danger—it heightens it.

3. Family or friends attend there.

Faulty Logic: Loyalty to family and friends is understandable, but loyalty to Christ and His truth must be higher. Jesus said, “*He who loves father or mother more than Me is not worthy of Me*” (Matt. 10:37). To attend a church primarily for relationships is to risk prioritizing man over God.

4. They think they can influence or “convert” the church to Free Grace.

Faulty Logic: While it’s noble to want to influence others, a single individual rarely changes a church’s doctrinal direction—especially one that’s institutionally tied to Calvinism or Lordship theology. More often, the individual is slowly influenced instead. The odds are stacked against reform from within.

5. They believe they’re strong enough not to be affected.

Faulty Logic: This is pride disguised as confidence. Paul warns, “*Let him who thinks he stands take heed lest he fall*” (1 Cor. 10:12). Prolonged exposure to legalistic teaching dulls discernment. Even Peter was swayed (Gal. 2:11–13). No one is immune.

6. The preaching seems biblical and Christ-centered.

Faulty Logic: Lordship teaching often *sounds* biblical—it quotes Scripture and emphasizes obedience, holiness, and surrender. But truth twisted is still error. Satan himself quoted Scripture in the wilderness (Matt. 4:6). Believers must learn to discern not just what is being said, but what is being subtly added or subtracted.

7. The church has excellent programs (youth, music, outreach, etc.).

Faulty Logic: Strong programs can be attractive, but they cannot outweigh the danger of a compromised gospel. Churches aren’t meant to be community centers with religious flavor—they are the “pillar and ground of the truth” (1 Tim. 3:15). Without truth, programs are just window dressing.

8. The pastor is dynamic, likable, and seems sincere.

Faulty Logic: Charisma does not equal truth. Paul warned that even if *he himself* or an *angel from heaven* preached another gospel, it must be rejected (Gal. 1:8). A winsome personality can make error more dangerous, not less.

9. They think all doctrinal debates are secondary and divisive.

Faulty Logic: Some believers say, “I don’t care about labels, just Jesus.” But the gospel itself is not a secondary issue—it is the heart of the faith. Paul was willing to confront even Peter to defend it (Gal. 2:11–14). Unity without truth is counterfeit unity.

10. They have never experienced the freedom of grace.

Legitimate Concern: Some believers attend Lordship-oriented churches because they don’t know any better—they’ve never been taught Free Grace clearly. Their spiritual lives are marked by striving and guilt, but they think that’s normal Christianity.

Pastoral Note: These are often the most reachable people, because once they taste grace, they recognize the difference (Heb. 13:9).

Summary:

Most of these reasons are rooted in **compromise, misplaced priorities, or self-deception**. A couple (lack of exposure, ignorance) are more innocent, but they are still dangerous. At the end of the day, Paul’s words in Galatians make clear that believers must prize the gospel above convenience, relationships, or personal preference.