

Sermon Title: Faithful in the Fire: Living with Conviction in a Culture of Compromise

Sermon Scripture: Daniel 1:8-16



Sermon Discussion Guide (6/29)

Begin the discussion by checking in with each person present and share prayer requests/praises with the group. Then, have one person offer a prayer for the group making sure to include any prayer requests that were mentioned earlier.

Scripture

Read Daniel 1:8-16 out loud. Discuss any initial thoughts you have about these verses.

Observation

Read verse 8a again but read it using the transliterated Hebrew version which says, "But purposed Daniel in his heart that he would not defile himself." What does this translation reveal to us about when and how Daniel made the decision to refrain from the royal food and wine?

In verse 9, what happens after Daniel resolves not to partake in the royal food and wine? How does what follows show us God's response to our faithfulness?

In these verses, how does Daniel approach and interact with the guards and chief officials as he is making his stand against the culture? What do Daniel's actions reveal to us about what it looks like to stand against the culture in a Christ-like manner?

Read Romans 12:1-2. What is the contrast presented between conforming to the world and being transformed by God? Is it possible to conform to the world and be transformed by God at the same time, or are these two things mutually exclusive?

Application

In America, the culture does not tell us that we cannot be Christian, but it does try to influence us into having a private faith that does not have any impact on the way we live or how we interact with others. In what ways have you faced pressure to not let your faith influence your life? How might you stand strong in the face of this pressure?

Often, we think of holiness as a restriction, but in the sermon, we saw holiness as a gift that allows us to align our heart with God's heart. What does it mean for you to align your heart with God's heart while living in a world that does not always support your beliefs or lifestyle?

Who are you becoming when no one is watching? Are the decisions you are making and the way you are living conducive to a life of faithfulness to God? Why or why not?

Pastor Kenny closed his sermon by asking us where the Holy Spirit was calling us to renewed resolve. How would you answer this question? What decision will you make this week to renew your resolve and stand with conviction in a culture of compromise?

Prayer

I am no longer my own, but yours. Put me to what you will, place me with whom you will. Put me to doing, put me to suffering. Let me be put to work for you or set aside for you, praised for you or criticized for you. Let me be full, let me be empty. Let me have all things, let me have nothing. I freely and fully surrender all things to your glory and service. And now, O wonderful and holy God, Creator, Redeemer, and Sustainer, You are mine, and I am yours. So be it. And the covenant which I have made on earth, Let it also be made in heaven. Amen.