

Series: "FAITH UNDER FIRE"
Part 1: "WHEN FAITH AND CULTURE COLLIDE"
Crossroads Community Church
February 13, 2022

³ Then the king ordered Ashpenaz, chief of his court officials, to bring into the king's service some of the Israelites from the royal family and the nobility— ⁴ young men without any physical defect, handsome, showing aptitude for every kind of learning, well informed, quick to understand, and qualified to serve in the king's palace. He was to teach them the language and literature of the Babylonians. Daniel 1:3-4 (NIV)

⁵ The king assigned them a daily amount of food and wine from the king's table. They were to be trained for three years, and after that they were to enter the king's service. Daniel 1:5 (NIV)

⁶ Among those who were chosen were some from Judah: Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael and Azariah. ⁷ The chief official gave them new names: to Daniel, the name Belteshazzar; to Hananiah, Shadrach; to Mishael, Meshach; and to Azariah, Abednego. Daniel 1:6-7 (NIV)

3 quick thoughts about culture and faith....

1. We are all _____ in a _____ culture

¹¹ Dear friends, I urge you, as foreigners and exiles, to abstain from sinful desires, which wage war against your soul. 1 Peter 2:11 (NIV)

2. The culture we live in is _____ towards the _____ we serve

3. God desires to use _____ to bring about cultural _____

a. Don't get overly _____

¹² Live such good lives among the pagans that, though they accuse you of doing wrong, they may see your good deeds and glorify God on the day he visits us. 1 Peter 2:12 (NIV)

b. Don't get overly _____

⁸ But Daniel resolved not to defile himself with the royal food and wine, Daniel 1:8a (NIV)

How to avoid conforming to the culture around you....

1. Decide _____ where you will take a _____

⁸ But Daniel resolved not to defile himself with the royal food and wine, and he asked the chief official for permission not to defile himself this way....¹⁰ but the official told Daniel, "I am afraid of my lord the king, who has assigned your food and drink. Why should he see you looking worse than the other young men your age? The king would then have my head because of you." Daniel 1:8 & 10 (NIV)

¹¹ Daniel then said to the guard whom the chief official had appointed over Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael and Azariah, ¹² "Please test your servants for ten days: Give us nothing but vegetables to eat and water to drink. ¹³ Then compare our appearance with that of the young men who eat the royal food, and treat your servants in accordance with what you see." ¹⁴ So he agreed to this and tested them for ten days. Daniel 1:11-14 (NIV)

2. Disagree about the _____ things in the _____ way

¹⁵ At the end of the ten days they looked healthier and better nourished than any of the young men who ate the royal food. ¹⁶ So the guard took away their choice food and the wine they were to drink and gave them vegetables instead. Daniel 1:15-16 (NIV)

3. Expect God to _____ your _____

⁹ Now God had caused the official to show favor and compassion to Daniel, Daniel 1:9 (NIV)

¹⁷ To these four young men God gave knowledge and understanding of all kinds of literature and learning. And Daniel could understand visions and dreams of all kinds. Daniel 1:17 (NIV)