

# HOW SHOULD WE THEN LIVE? CONVICTION

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## I. Introduction

### **Daniel 1:1-2:**

*In the third year of the reign of Jehoiakim, king of Judah, Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon came to Jerusalem and besieged it. And the Lord delivered Jehoiakim king of Judah into his hand, along with some of the articles from the temple of God. These he carried off to the temple of his god in Babylonia and put in the treasure house of his god.*

### **Daniel 1:3-4:**

*Then the king ordered Ashpenaz, chief of his court officials, to bring in some of the Israelites from the royal family and the nobility – 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 1:5-7:**

*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. Among these were some from Judah: Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah. The chief official gave them new names: to Daniel, the name Belteshazzar, to Hananiah, Shadrach; to Mishael, Meshach; and to Azariah, Abednego.*

1. *Nebuchadnezzar could change their names and even try to change their passions, but this pagan king could not change their convictions.*

## 2. *The Spirit of Babylon*

- The Spirit of Babylon – Humankind’s attempt to usurp the authority of God.

*“Civilizations do not give out; they give in. In a society where anything goes, eventually everything will.” –John Underwood*

*“How Should We Then Live? It is maintaining a **conviction** and a **commitment** to God’s Word as truth. It is a compassion for a culture that is lost and dying without the gospel. It is a commitment to the costly practice of truth in the midst of the intellectual, moral, and philosophical battles of our day. It is living in the power and reality of the God who is there, bearing the witness of His truth across the full spectrum of life and culture.” – Francis Schaeffer*

## II. Conviction

### ***Daniel 1:8:***

*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.*

**Conviction** – an unwavering standard, a committed value, a foundational principle – The Truth.

There are two convictions we must hold true to so we can thrive today in our culture. These two convictions will transform our lives and help us answer the question: “How Should We Then Live?”

### **#1: Know Your Identity**

A. One of Satan’s greatest strategies is identity theft.

*“Both God and Satan want to strip you of your identity – but God wants to replace it with Himself while Satan just wants to leave you empty.” –David & Jason Benham*

- Intimacy with God will help us deal with our identity crisis.
- Intimacy with God is based on meeting with Him in His Word, spirit to Spirit.

### ***Romans 12:2:***

*Do not be conformed any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God’s will is – his good, pleasing and perfect will.*

B. We read God’s Word to have our minds transformed which will help us discover our identity. This must be a conviction!

*“Knowing our true identity breeds conviction, and conviction fuels our actions.” - David and Jason Benham*

### **#2: Establish A Biblical Worldview**

***Psalm 24:1*** *The earth is the Lord’s, and everything in it, the world, and all who live in it*

- A. Christianity is not just one compartment of our lives. It is our life! This must be a conviction!
- Our worldview must remain constant and consistent no matter what takes place in our world.

**Colossians 2:8:**

*See to it that no one takes you captive through hollow and deceptive philosophy, which depends on human tradition and the basic principles of this world rather than on Christ.*

B. We are to give allegiance first to Christ by allowing His truth and His character to dominate all allegiances. This must be our conviction!

- It must be our conviction that nothing takes us captive except the Truth of God's Word.

**Daniel 1:18-20:**

*At the end of the time set by the king to bring them in, the chief official presented them to Nebuchadnezzar. The king talked with them, and he found none equal to Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael and Azariah; so they entered the king's service. In every matter of wisdom and understanding about which the king questioned them, he found them ten times better than all the magicians and enchanters in his whole kingdom.*

**Daniel 1:21:**

*And Daniel remained there until the first year of King Cyrus.*

- How do you answer the question: **How Should We Then Live?**