



Daniel Week 2: Compromise

1. Icebreaker: How does everyone feel about winter? Snow? What are your favorite winter activities (waiting for Spring doesn't count)?
2. Pastor Dan shared his experience in the Police Academy and how it **actively** changed his identity, values, language, culture, etc., **forming** him into a new person. Have there been any groups (other than the church) or experiences you have had where your attitude, values, practices have been **actively or passively** shaped by being a part of it? How do you think our culture passively shapes us?
3. We read in Daniel 1:1-2 about how God "delivered" Israel into the hands of King Nebuchadnezzar and the Babylonians. **Why** would God allow Israel to be given over to another kingdom and have their city exiled and besieged?
4. Daniel 1:8 gives us a glimpse into the character of Daniel when he chooses not to eat the food and drink from the King's table. What does this action say about Daniel's example about walking in "The Way of the Exile."
5. Notice that even in not wanting to eat food that wasn't allowed by the Mosaic law that Daniel is respectful in sharing his issue with the chief official. How do you handle situations and circumstances that you disagree with? Does it match up with the model we have in Daniel's response?
6. Read Daniel 1:3-7, here we see the "formation program" the Babylonians put Daniel and his friends through; it involved; **Isolation**, reprogramming through **immersion**, and changing their **identification**. Can you identify them in these scriptures? How do you believe our "cultural Babylon" attempts to form us in each of these ways?
7. The Way of the Exile must be rooted in the **Words, Works, and Ways of Jesus**. Pastor Dan shared that our counter-formation in Christ also involves **Identification** (we are a New Creation, and have a New Identity), Combatting **Isolation** through community (Jesus lived in biblical community so must we) **Immersion** (in his Word - the scriptures, imitating the works - Habits of Jesus). Which of these are you thriving, which of these is God asking you to grow in? How can your Grace Group support and pray for you?