

“A Story of a POW”

Daniel Message Series Week 1

Daniel 1:1-21

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January 6, 2019

How do we live in a society and culture that does not share our beliefs and values in God and His commands?

A. We live in light of the sovereignty of God. (Daniel 1:2, 9, 17)

“The theme of the book called Daniel is the sovereignty of God in all things. He is sovereign over the big things like international powers, and he is sovereign over small things like the apparently insignificant lives of teenagers. He is sovereign over history and is sovereign concerning the future. Our God is sovereign.”

Daniel L. Akin, *Christ-Centered Exposition: Exalting Jesus in Daniel*, B&H Publishing Group, Nashville, TN, 2017, p. 4.

B. We live with conviction, courage, and humility. (Daniel 1:8-12)

“Daniel and his friends were forced to be in Babylon, but they would not let Babylon get into them. They made a conscious and determined decision to say no.

With courage and conviction Daniel approached the chief of the eunuchs and requested that he allow him to disregard the king's order and not defile himself. What amazing boys their parents had raised! The stand they were taking had been years in the making. It did not happen overnight.”

Daniel L. Akin, *Christ-Centered Exposition: Exalting Jesus in Daniel*, B&H Publishing Group, Nashville, TN, 2017, p. 4.

“If the strength of Daniel's stand is impressive, no less so is the manner in which he took it. We do not read any harsh words, proud bearing, or histrionics. Rather he responded to his situation in a spirit of humility and respect. He requested permission of the chief of the eunuchs (v. 8).”

Sinclair B. Ferguson, *The Preacher's Commentary Series, Volume 21; Daniel*, Thomas Nelson Publishers, Nashville, TN, 1988, p. 119.

For further reading: *Onward: Engaging the Culture Without Losing the Gospel* by Russell Moore

Reflection:

1. How have I compromised or wavered on my convictions? How have I conformed to the world's views and actions?
2. How have I played it safe rather than being courageous about my beliefs and convictions?
3. Do nonbelievers see humility or pride in me as I communicate and live out my convictions?
4. Does my life reflect a peace and rest that is rooted in the sovereignty of God?

Response:

1. Do I need to confess and repent of compromising or conforming to the world?
2. What step of conviction and courage is God calling me to take?
3. Do I need to confess and repent of not reflecting the humility of Christ to those who believe differently than me?
4. In what situation in my life do I need to trust that God is sovereign?