

Living As A Christian In An Ungodly World

Introduction: Daniel 1

1. Most of our time is lived in and among the world.
2. We struggle to keep the world from living in us.
3. The example of Daniel teaches how to shine as lights in a world of darkness.

I. The Challenge

- A. Environmental Challenge (1:1-4)
 1. Ungodly culture
 2. Loss of freedom
 3. The only true religion was what they brought.
- B. Spiritual Challenge (1:5)
 1. Intoxicating wine
 2. Unclean food
 3. Connection to idolatry
- C. Identity Challenge (1:6-7)
 1. Names changed
 2. Pressured to lose connection to Jehovah

II. The Commitment

- A. A Devoted Heart (1:8)
 1. Purposed – “To place or ordain”
 2. Not afraid to say, “No.”
- B. A Determined Humility (1:9-12)
 1. Abstinence requested – upfront with kindness
 2. Alternative suggested
- C. A Disciplined Honesty (1:13-16)
 1. Not attempting to deceive or harm
 2. Rather, they were made better

III. The Contribution

- A. Good Example (1:8, 10)
 1. The power of one / the influence of a group
 2. The nation was better off because of them
- B. Godly Emphasis (1:17-20; 2:47; 3:29-30; 4:37; 6:25-28)
 1. To the idolaters of Babylon
 2. To their own people in captivity
- C. Glorious Ending (1:21)
 1. Daniel and his influence continued until Cyrus
 2. Ultimately, the result was deliverance from captivity