DANIEL

July 26th / 27th, 2025
Pastor Steve

When You're Pressured to Conform

Life Principles:

I. Before every _____ there's always a _____.

Fire tests the purity of silver and gold, but the LORD tests the heart. Proverbs 17:3

II. God tests us with _____ before he trusts us with _____.

But we speak the Good News because God tested us and trusted us to do it. When we speak, we are not trying to please people, but God, who tests our hearts. 1 Thessalonians 2:4

5 The king assigned them a daily ration of food & wine from his own kitchens. They were to be trained for three years, and then they would enter the royal service…. 8 But Daniel was determined not to defile himself by eating the food & wine given to them by the king. He asked the chief of staff for permission not to eat these unacceptable foods. 9 Now God had given the chief of staff both respect & affection for Daniel. 10 But he responded, "I am afraid of my lord the king, who has ordered that you eat this food & wine. If you become pale & thin compared to the other youths your age, I am afraid the king will have me beheaded." 11 Daniel spoke with the attendant who had been appointed by the chief of staff to look after Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah. 12 "Please test us for 10 days on a diet of vegetables & water," Daniel said. 13 "At the end of the 10 days, see how we look compared to the other young men who are eating the king's food. Then make your decision in light of what you see." 14 The attendant agreed to Daniel's suggestion & tested them for 10 days. 15 At the end of the 10 days, Daniel & his 3 friends looked healthier & better nourished than the young men who had been eating the food assigned by the king. 16 So after that, the attendant fed them only vegetables instead of the food & wine provided for the others… 18 When the training period ordered by the king was completed, the chief of staff brought all the young men to King Nebuchadnezzar. 19 The king talked with them & no one impressed him as much as Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael & Azariah. So they entered the royal service. Daniel 1:5, 8-16, 18-19

Daniel Refuses to Conform Due To:

I A _____ reason.

II A _____ reason.

A) They will say it is wrong to be married & wrong to eat certain foods. But God created those foods to be eaten with thanks by faithful people who know the truth. Since everything God created is good, we should not reject any of it but receive it with thanks. For we know it is made acceptable by the word of God & prayer. 1 Timothy 4:3-5

B) It's not what goes into your mouth that defiles you; you are defiled by the words that come out of your mouth. Matthew 15:11

III It was a _____ on Daniel's identity.

4 Qualities God Looks For In Your Life:

I _____: Daniel never forgot who he was.

A) Daniel 1:8

B) Don't conform yourself to the values of this world. Instead, let God transform you by a complete change of how you think. Then you will be able to know the will of God. Romans 12:2

II _____: Daniel controlled his ego & his appetite.

A) Daniel 1:8

B) Do not let any part of your bodies become tools of wickedness, to be used for sinning; but give yourselves completely to God—every part of you—for you are back from death and you want to be tools in the hands of God, to be used for his good purposes. Romans 6:13

III _____: Daniel was willing to stand alone.

A) You must not do wrong just because everyone else is doing it. If you are a witness in court, you must not ruin a fair trial. You must not lie just because everyone else is. Exodus 23:2

B) Be on guard. Stand firm in the faith. Be courageous. Be strong. 1 Corinthians 16:13

IV _____: Daniel was tactful with authority. Daniel 1:8-16, 18-19

How to Make a Case to an Authority:

I Develop a _____ for responsibility.

Do you see any truly competent workers? They will serve kings rather than work for ordinary people. Proverbs 22:29

II Be _____ and not belligerent.

Don't demand an audience with the king or push for a place among the great. Proverbs 25:6

III Don't be _____ or manipulative.

We reject all shameful deeds and underhanded methods. We don't try to trick anyone or distort the word of God. We tell the truth before God & all who are honest know this. 2 Corinthians 4:2

IV Appeal to their _____ and their interests.

V Choose the right _____, _____ and _____.

The wise are known for their understanding & pleasant words are persuasive. Proverbs 16:21

VI _____ if they reject your appeal.

And we know that God causes everything to work together for the good of those who love God and are called according to his purpose for them. Romans 8:28

To Have The Courage to Stand Alone & Not Conform, I Remember I Have:

I _____ with me.

II The _____ in me.

III The _____ of God to me.

IV God's _____ around me.

14 Don't become partners with those who reject God. How can you make a partnership out of right and
wrong? That's not partnership; that's war. Is light best friends with dark? 15 Does Christ go strolling with
the Devil? Do trust and mistrust hold hands? 16 Who would think of setting up pagan idols in God's holy
Temple? But that is exactly what we are, each of us a temple in whom God lives. God himself put it this
way: "I'll live in them, move into them; I'll be their God and they'll be my people. 17 So leave the corruption
and compromise; leave it for good," says God. "Don't link up with those who will pollute you. I want you
all for myself. 1 With promises like this to pull us on, dear friends, let's make a clean break with
everything that defiles or distracts us, both within and without. Let's make our entire lives fit and holy
temples for the worship of God. 2 Corinthians 6:14-17, 7:1

My Next Step Is:

- I'm deciding for Christ and accepting the free gift of Salvation!
- I'm recommitting my life to Christ.
- I will memorize 1 Corinthians 16:13.
- I will strive to develop the 4 qualities seen in Daniel's life.
- I will follow the steps discussed when I need to make a case to an authority.
- I plan to attend SonRise University "The Holy Spirit" on Tuesday August 12th at 6:00PM.