



The Daniel Dilemma

Big Idea

Pastor Curt – Part 1

We began a new series this week called "**The Daniel Dilemma**" to teach us how to stand firm and love well in a culture of compromise. As we walk through our daily lives, it can feel like we are constantly battered with competing messages through our televisions, radios, social media, and even our friends and family. The fact is, the enemy has an agenda and uses culture in an effort to influence the way we think and feel.

This first message, titled **Confidence**, we learned how four young men chose to love and live God's way instead of letting the culture reprogram them to think, believe, and live differently. We must wrestle with this question: **Are you changing the world around you or is the world changing you?** Your answer is based on how you answer these 3 questions: 1) Do I trust and embrace God's **plan**? 2) Do I trust God's **principles** and live by them? 3) Do I trust God's **process**? So how do we navigate a culture that is constantly shifting its core values? Through Daniel and his friends, we learn that when culture shifts, **we need to know who we are, reaffirm our convictions, and refuse to yield to the pressure.** When we live like Daniel and his friends, we will have confidence in who we are in Christ. We will stand firm in our convictions, and confidently live knowing God's plan and process is the best for us.

Discussion Questions

- Look up and share what your name means.
- Read Daniel 1:1-7. The Babylon captors changed the names of the four young captured Israelite men. Why? Discuss this PC comment: The earliest and most deadly attack of the devil is on your identity (my identity is what I believe about who I am).
- In the same way Daniel and his friends were given new names, the enemy tries to rename us through cultural influences. Discuss a way that culture has tried to rename you.
- To navigate through a culture far from God, we must be prepared for a test. Talk about a time when you have been tested. How did you respond? What did you learn from the situation?
- Think about your daily life. What are some areas in your life where you can "influence the culture" around you? Discuss what that would look like with the group.

Prayer Focus

Ask God to reveal the ways culture has influenced you and ask Him to grow you to become more like Jesus each day so that you can resist cultural temptations and be a godly example to those around you. Also be mindful of the Election this week and be in prayer for our God-ordained leaders.

Next Steps

Remember that God doesn't label you by the failures of your past, but the potential of your future. Make sure to be connected with a Group. Groups provide a connection with others that will help you find freedom as you surrender your past to God.

Leader Tip

Be ready to share an example of how the Culture has impacted your life. It can help put your members at ease when they see their leader being vulnerable. Also, connect with your members this week and encourage them in their efforts to live with confidence in their identity in Christ.