

Life Group Leader Notes

Christ or Conformity

June 2023

Daniel 3

1. The World's SYSTEM demands CONFORMITY.

*Daniel 3: 1-3 King Nebuchadnezzar made an **image of gold**, whose height was sixty cubits and its breadth six cubits. He set it up on the plain of Dura, in the province of Babylon. Then King Nebuchadnezzar sent to gather the satraps, the prefects, and the governors, the counselors, the treasurers, the justices, the magistrates, and all the officials of the provinces to come to the dedication of the image that King Nebuchadnezzar had set up. Then the satraps, the prefects, and the governors, the counselors, the treasurers, the justices, the magistrates, and all the officials of the provinces gathered for the **dedication** of the image that King Nebuchadnezzar had set up. And they stood before the image that Nebuchadnezzar had set up.*

Daniel 3: 4-5 And the herald proclaimed aloud, "You are commanded, O peoples, nations, and languages, that when you hear the sound of the horn, pipe, lyre, trigon, harp, bagpipe, and every kind of music, you are to fall down and worship the golden image that King Nebuchadnezzar has set up.

The God of this world demands allegiance. The devil wants you to love him and his way. And he knows his time his short.

At some point, we must learn to stand for Christ regardless of what people say about us.

Discussion: What will we do when the rubber hits the road and we asked to compromise our faith? We will conform to Christ or the world?

2. CONFORMITY demands COMPROMISE.

Daniel 3:6 And whoever does not fall down and worship shall immediately be cast into a burning fiery furnace."

The world seeks CONFORMED CONNECTION because deep down people are SPIRITUALLY DISCONNECTED from God.

You must have wisdom in the Holy Spirit. You are the light of the world. Ask the Holy Spirit to help you stand in these days. People need to hear the truth.

Discussion: Have you experienced a situation where you chose not to compromise your faith or principles? How did you handle it, and what were the consequences?

3. Not COMPROMISING is UNCOMMON.

*Daniel 3:12 There are **certain Jews** whom you have appointed over the affairs of the province of Babylon: **Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego**. These men, O king, pay no attention to you; they do not serve your gods or worship the golden image that you have set up."*

Out of all the Jews only 3 stood up. 3 out of 10,000.

Discussion: What common pressures or influences lead people to compromise their values or beliefs?

4. UNCOMPROMISING faith infuriates a CONFORMIST culture.

Daniel 3:13-14 Then Nebuchadnezzar in furious rage commanded that Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego be brought. So, they brought these men before the king. Nebuchadnezzar answered and said to them, “Is it true, O Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, that you do not serve my gods or worship the golden image that I have set up?”

Nebuchadnezzar got angry. The world is going to get angry, too.

Daniel 3:16-18 Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego answered and said to the king, “O Nebuchadnezzar, we have no need to answer you in this matter. If this be so, our God whom we serve is able to deliver us from the burning fiery furnace, and he will deliver us out of your hand, O king. But if not, be it known to you, O king, that we will not serve your gods worship the golden image that you have set up.”

Only next level faith leaves a lasting impression. We will not bow.

UNCOMPROMISING faith does three things:

1. It STANDS apart.
2. It SPEAKS for one's self.
3. It SURRENDERS the results to God.

Daniel 3:19-20 Then Nebuchadnezzar was filled with fury, and the expression of his face was changed against Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego. He ordered the furnace heated seven times more than it was usually heated. And he ordered some of the mighty men of his army to bind Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, and to cast them into the burning fiery furnace.

He turned the heat up as the world is doing to us right now.

Discussion: Considering the potential backlash and opposition that uncompromising faith may encounter, what strategies or principles can we learn from this passage to navigate and respond to such situations?

5. CHRIST'S PRESENCE is better than the WORLD'S ACCEPTANCE.

We cannot afford to be cultural Christians who just check the box by coming to church on Sunday and living the way we want the rest of the week. Christianity is not going through a program, or getting more religious, or being a good person. It is loving and following the One who made us, formed us, loved us, and gave His life for us.

Discussion: In what ways do you personally seek Christ's presence over seeking acceptance from the world? How has this choice impacted your life?

Closing Challenge: Identify an area in your life where you have been compromising your values or faith due to societal pressure or the desire for acceptance and develop a plan to break free from conformity in that area. (This could be by making different choices, setting boundaries, or speaking up for your beliefs.)

