



stand & LOVE FIRM well

**How to be Faithful to God and Genuinely Love Others
When Engaging Culture that is at Odds with Faith in Jesus**

Part 3:
Understanding the
Differences Between Good,
Bad, and Neutral
Compromises

Daniel 1:1

**During the third year of King
Jehoiakim's reign in Judah, King
Nebuchadnezzar of Babylon came
to Jerusalem and besieged it.**

Daniel 1:2a

**The Lord gave him victory over King
Jehoiakim of Judah and permitted
him to take some of the sacred
objects from the Temple of God.**

Daniel 1:2b

**So Nebuchadnezzar took them back
to the land of Babylonia and placed
them in the treasure-house of his
god.**

Daniel 1:3

Then the king ordered Ashpenaz, his chief of staff, to bring to the palace some of the young men of Judah's royal family and other noble families, who had been brought to Babylon as captives.

Daniel 1:4a

**“Select only strong, healthy, and good-looking young men,” he said.
“Make sure they are well versed in every branch of learning, are gifted with knowledge**

Daniel 1:4b

and good judgment, and are suited to serve in the royal palace. Train these young men in the language and literature of Babylon.”

Daniel 1:5

The king assigned them a daily ration of food and wine from his own kitchens. They were to be trained for three years, and then they would enter the royal service.

Daniel 1:6

Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah were four of the young men chosen, all from the tribe of Judah.

Daniel 1:7a

**The chief of staff renamed them
with these Babylonian names:**

Daniel 1:7b

Daniel was called Belteshazzar.

Hananiah was called Shadrach.

Mishael was called Meshach.

Azariah was called Abednego.



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Principle #1

In order to be faithful to God in a culture that is at odds with faith in Jesus Christ, your understanding of who God is, your relationship with Him, and what His God Breathed Word says, must be ever growing.

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Background

The prophets Jeremiah and Zephaniah both spent over 20 years warning the people in Judah that they had fallen under the curse of God and were doomed to Babylonian exile because they refused to repent.

Background

During exiled captivity in Babylon, the prophet Ezekiel declared to God's people that they could not sin with impunity. God's covenant had always detailed the consequences of persistent rebellion against God.

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Principle #2

In order to be faithful to God in a culture that is at odds with faith in Jesus Christ, you must truly discern who you are really fighting for, and what you are really fighting for.

Principle #3

In order to be faithful to God in a culture that is at odds with faith in Jesus Christ, you must understand the differences between your preferences, convictions, and God Breathed Truths.

Daniel 1:8

But Daniel was determined not to defile himself by eating the food and wine given to them by the king. He asked the chief of staff for permission not to eat these unacceptable foods.

Preferences & Convictions

- **Preference:** a greater liking of one alternative over another.
- **Conviction:** the state of mind of a person who is sure that what they believe or say is true.
- **God Breathed Truth**

Seeking God's Truth

- Is it a clear command from God?
- Is doing it (or not doing it) a clear sin that will be punished by God?
- Is God holding you responsible for the topic in question, which means He will punish you for disobeying?

Principle #3

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Principle #4

In order to be faithful to God in a culture that is at odds with faith in Jesus Christ, you must understand that there are good, bad, and neutral types of compromise.

Compromise Defined

- To settle a dispute by mutual concession.
- To accept standards that are lower than desirable.
- To bring into disrepute by indiscreet, foolish, or reckless behavior.

Their “Compromises”

- **“Willingly” left Judah to become captives in Babylon.**
- **Were educated according to their enemies' pagan educational systems.**

Their “Compromises”

- **Forced to speak in a foreign language.**
- **Were given new names that dishonored their God.**
- **Made eunuchs?**

Signs of a Bad Compromise:

- **When our compromise leads us to directly sin against God.**
- **When our compromise is morally or ethically wrong.**
- **When we are compromising to keep the false peace.**

Signs of a Bad Compromise:

- **We are compromising because it makes life “easier”.**
- **We are compromising because if we don’t, we might be rejected.**
- **We are compromising in order to take a short cut.**

Signs of a Bad Compromise:

- **We are compromising in the short term to get our way in the long term: manipulation.**
- **We are compromising our faithfulness to God for the approval of others.**

Principle #4

In order to be faithful to God in a culture that is at odds with faith in Jesus Christ, you must understand that there are good, bad, and neutral types of compromise.

Principle #5

You must understand that the enemies of God are always working towards getting you to compromise your faith in who God is, what His Word says, and His Goodness.

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More Than a Name

Daniel: God is My Judge *is renamed*

**Belteshazzar: May a god Protect His
Life *or* Lady, Protect the King**

**Azariah: Yah [God] is My Help *is
renamed* Abednego: servant of Nabu**

What's In a Name?

Hananiah: Yah [God] Has Been
Gracious *is renamed* Shadrach: I am
fearful of god
Mishael: Who Is What God Is *or* Who
Can Compare to My God *is renamed*
Meshach: I am despised

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Principle #6

In order to be faithful to God in a culture that is at odds with faith in Jesus Christ, your identity and the way you live your life must be firmly rooted in the Lordship of Jesus Christ.

Obeying Whatever He Says

- **Isaiah had to walk around naked for 3 years (Isaiah 20:1-6)**
- **Ezekiel had to lie down on his left side for 390 days then eat food made from a pile of burning manure (Ezekiel 4:4-5,12)**

Obeying Whatever He Says

- Hosea had to marry a promiscuous woman and have children with her (Hosea 1:2-3)
- The Logos had to leave His throne and His Kingdom to come to earth to die for His enemies.

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