



# 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 5**

# **Appropriate Ways to Faithfully Stand Up in a Bow Down Culture**



# **Daniel 3:1**

**King Nebuchadnezzar made a gold statue ninety feet tall and nine feet wide and set it up on the plain of Dura in the province of Babylon.**

# Daniel 3:2

Then he sent messages to the high officers, officials, governors, advisers, treasurers, judges, magistrates, and all the provincial officials to come to the dedication of the statue he had set up.

# **Daniel 3:3**

**So all these officials came and  
stood before the statue King  
Nebuchadnezzar had set up.**



# **Daniel 3:4**

**Then a herald shouted out, “People  
of all races and nations and  
languages, listen to the king’s  
command!”**

# **Daniel 3:5**

**When you hear the sound of the horn, flute, zither, lyre, harp, pipes, and other musical instruments, bow to the ground to worship King Nebuchadnezzar's gold statue.**

# **Daniel 3:6**

**Anyone who refuses to obey will  
immediately be thrown into a  
blazing furnace.”**



# **Daniel 3:7**

**So at the sound of the musical instruments, all the people, whatever their race or nation or language, bowed to the ground and worshiped the gold statue that King Nebuchadnezzar had set up.**

# **Daniel 3:8**

**But some of the astrologers went to the king and informed on the Jews.**

# Daniel 3:9

They said to King Nebuchadnezzar,  
“Long live the king!”



# **Daniel 3:10**

**You issued a decree requiring all the people to bow down and worship the gold statue when they hear the sound of the horn, flute, zither, lyre, harp, pipes, and other musical instruments.**

# Daniel 3:11

**That decree also states that those  
who refuse to obey must be  
thrown into a blazing furnace.**

# **Daniel 3:12a**

**But there are some Jews—  
Shadrach, Meshach, and  
Abednego—whom you have put in  
charge of the province of Babylon.**



# **Daniel 3:12b**

**They pay no attention to you, your Majesty. They refuse to serve your gods and do not worship the gold statue you have set up.”**

# Daniel 3:13

Then Nebuchadnezzar flew into a rage and ordered that Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego be brought before him. When they were brought in,

# **Daniel 3:14**

**Nebuchadnezzar said to them, “Is it true, Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, that you refuse to serve my gods or to worship the gold statue I have set up?”**



# **Daniel 3:15a**

**I will give you one more chance to bow down and worship the statue I have made when you hear the sound of the musical instruments.**

# **Daniel 3:15b**

**But if you refuse, you will be thrown immediately into the blazing furnace. And then what god will be able to rescue you from my power?”**

# **Daniel 3:16**

**Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego  
replied, “O Nebuchadnezzar, we do  
not need to defend ourselves  
before you.**



# **Daniel 3:17**

**If we are thrown into the blazing furnace, the God whom we serve is able to save us. He will rescue us from your power, your Majesty.**

# Daniel 3:18

**But even if he doesn't, we want to make it clear to you, your Majesty, that we will never serve your gods or worship the gold statue you have set up."**

# **Daniel 3:19a**

**Nebuchadnezzar was so furious  
with Shadrach, Meshach, and  
Abednego that his face became  
distorted with rage.**



# **Daniel 3:19b**

**He commanded that the furnace  
be heated seven times hotter  
than usual.**

# **Daniel 3:20**

**Then he ordered some of the strongest men of his army to bind Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego and throw them into the blazing furnace.**

# Daniel 3:21

So they tied them up and threw them into the furnace, fully dressed in their pants, turbans, robes, and other garments.



# Daniel 3:22

**And because the king, in his anger,  
had demanded such a hot fire in  
the furnace, the flames killed the  
soldiers as they threw the three  
men in.**

# **Daniel 3:23**

**So Shadrach, Meshach, and  
Abednego, securely tied, fell into  
the roaring flames.**

# **Daniel 3:24a**

**But suddenly, Nebuchadnezzar  
jumped up in amazement and  
exclaimed to his advisers, “Didn’t  
we tie up three men and throw  
them into the furnace?”**



# **Daniel 3:24b**

**“Yes, your Majesty, we certainly did,” they replied.**

# Daniel 3:25

**“Look!” Nebuchadnezzar shouted.  
“I see four men, unbound, walking  
around in the fire unharmed!  
And the fourth looks like a son  
of the gods!”**

# **Daniel 3:26a**

**Then Nebuchadnezzar came as close as he could to the door of the flaming furnace and shouted:**



# **Daniel 3:26b**

**“Shadrach, Meshach, and  
Abednego, servants of the Most  
High God, come out! Come here!”**

**So Shadrach, Meshach, and  
Abednego stepped out of the fire.**

# **Daniel 3:27a**

**Then the high officers, officials,  
governors, and advisers crowded  
around them and saw that the fire  
had not touched them.**

# **Daniel 3:27b**

**Not a hair on their heads was singed, and their clothing was not scorched. They didn't even smell of smoke!**



# **Daniel 3:28a**

**Then Nebuchadnezzar said, “Praise  
to the God of Shadrach, Meshach,  
and Abednego! He sent his angel  
to rescue his servants who  
trusted in him.**

# **Daniel 3:28b**

**They defied the king's command  
and were willing to die rather than  
serve or worship any god except  
their own God.**

# **Daniel 3:29a**

**Therefore, I make this decree: If  
any people, whatever their race or  
nation or language, speak a word  
against the God of Shadrach,  
Meshach, and Abednego,**



# **Daniel 3:29b**

**they will be torn limb from limb,  
and their houses will be turned into  
heaps of rubble. There is no other  
god who can rescue like this!”**

# **Daniel 3:30**

**Then the king promoted Shadrach,  
Meshach, and Abednego to even  
higher positions in the province  
of Babylon.**





# 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**



# Principle #1

**The temptation to worship  
a false God or an idol is always  
strong because it promises  
a better future.**

# Daniel 3:1

**King Nebuchadnezzar made a gold statue ninety feet tall and nine feet wide and set it up on the plain of Dura in the province of Babylon.**

# Daniel 3:2

Then he sent messages to the high officers, officials, governors, advisers, treasurers, judges, magistrates, and all the provincial officials to come to the dedication of the statue he had set up.



# **Daniel 3:3**

**So all these officials came and  
stood before the statue King  
Nebuchadnezzar had set up.**

# **Daniel 3:4**

**Then a herald shouted out,  
“People of all races and nations  
and languages, listen to the  
king’s command!**

# **Daniel 3:5**

**When you hear the sound of the horn, flute, zither, lyre, harp, pipes, and other musical instruments, bow to the ground to worship King Nebuchadnezzar's gold statue.**



# **Daniel 3:6**

**Anyone who refuses to obey will  
immediately be thrown into a  
blazing furnace.”**

# **Daniel 3:7**

**So at the sound of the musical instruments, all the people, whatever their race or nation or language, bowed to the ground and worshiped the gold statue that King Nebuchadnezzar had set up.**

# Principle #1

**The temptation to worship  
a false God or an idol is always  
strong because it promises  
a better future.**



# Principle #2

**As Christians, we will never be able to influence the world for Christ by becoming like it.**

# **Daniel 3:7**

**So at the sound of the musical instruments, all the people, whatever their race or nation or language, bowed to the ground and worshiped the gold statue that King Nebuchadnezzar had set up.**

# **Daniel 3:8**

**But some of the astrologers went to the king and informed on the Jews.**



# Daniel 3:9

They said to King Nebuchadnezzar,  
“Long live the king!”

# **Daniel 3:10**

**You issued a decree requiring all the people to bow down and worship the gold statue when they hear the sound of the horn, flute, zither, lyre, harp, pipes, and other musical instruments.**

# **Daniel 3:11**

**That decree also states that those  
who refuse to obey must be  
thrown into a blazing furnace.**



# **Daniel 3:12a**

**But there are some Jews—  
Shadrach, Meshach, and  
Abednego—whom you have put in  
charge of the province of Babylon.**

# **Daniel 3:12b**

**They pay no attention to you, your Majesty. They refuse to serve your gods and do not worship the gold statue you have set up.”**

# Principle #2

**As Christians, we will never be able to influence the world for Christ by becoming like it.**



# What Are We Becoming?

- Giving in or knuckling under to appease others
- Arguing, debating, fighting
- Canceling relationships
- Judging or condemning

**Ungodly culture teaches and  
reinforces the belief that  
everyone's opinions on all topics  
at all times not only matters  
but must be shared.**

**The boys simply and quietly  
decided not to participate in  
worshipping a false god or idol.  
They didn't make a fuss. They  
didn't announce it to others. They  
kept worshipping God and they  
kept living their lives.**



# Principle #2

**As Christians, we will never be able to influence the world for Christ by becoming like it.**

# Principle #3

**When necessary, we must calmly  
make our faith and our boundaries  
clear with direct, respectful  
communication.**

# **Daniel 3:12a**

**But there are some Jews—  
Shadrach, Meshach, and  
Abednego—whom you have put in  
charge of the province of Babylon.**



# **Daniel 3:12b**

**They pay no attention to you, your Majesty. They refuse to serve your gods and do not worship the gold statue you have set up.”**

# **Daniel 3:13**

**Then Nebuchadnezzar flew into a rage and ordered that Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego be brought before him. When they were brought in,**

# **Daniel 3:14**

**Nebuchadnezzar said to them, “Is it true, Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, that you refuse to serve my gods or to worship the gold statue I have set up?”**



# **Daniel 3:15a**

**I will give you one more chance to  
bow down and worship the statue I  
have made when you hear the  
sound of the musical instruments.**

# **Daniel 3:15b**

**But if you refuse, you will be thrown immediately into the blazing furnace. And then what god will be able to rescue you from my power?”**

# **Daniel 3:16**

**Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego  
replied, "O Nebuchadnezzar,  
we do not need to defend  
ourselves before you."**



# **Daniel 3:17**

**If we are thrown into the blazing furnace, the God whom we serve is able to save us. He will rescue us from your power, Your Majesty.**

# Daniel 3:18

**But even if he doesn't, we want to make it clear to you, your Majesty, that we will never serve your gods or worship the gold statue you have set up."**

# **Daniel 3:19a**

**Nebuchadnezzar was so furious  
with Shadrach, Meshach, and  
Abednego that his face became  
distorted with rage.**



**We come to learn about King  
Nebuchadnezzar's private  
interrogation of the boys, that  
their private rebellion was not  
rooted in cowardice.**

**Don't allow standing up "for God"  
or "defending yourself" to become  
your idol. Being "right" does not  
make you righteous.**

**Truth without grace is mean.  
Grace without truth  
is meaningless.**



# Principle #3

**When necessary, we must calmly  
make our faith and our boundaries  
clear with direct, respectful  
communication.**

# Principle #4

**True worship of God requires trust.  
Trusting God means trusting Him  
no matter what.**

# **Daniel 3:16**

**Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego  
replied, “O Nebuchadnezzar,  
we do not need to defend  
ourselves before you.**



# **Daniel 3:17**

**If we are thrown into the blazing furnace, the God whom we serve is able to save us. He will rescue us from your power, your Majesty.**

# Daniel 3:18

**But even if he doesn't, we want to make it clear to you, your Majesty, that we will never serve your gods or worship the gold statue you have set up."**

**Trusting God no matter what means we trust Him even when we don't understand His ways. It also means trusting Him through pain, suffering, and even death.**



**The boys' statement establishes an eternal fact, which is that God can save but we have no guarantee that He will save. God will not save every single one of us every single time from pain, suffering, or death.**

# Principle #4

**True worship of God requires trust.  
Trusting God means trusting Him  
no matter what.**

# Principle #5

**God is always with us in the fire,  
and He alone has the power to  
save us in the middle of the fire.**



# **Daniel 3:19a**

**Nebuchadnezzar was so furious  
with Shadrach, Meshach, and  
Abednego that his face became  
distorted with rage.**

# **Daniel 3:19b**

**He commanded that the furnace  
be heated seven times hotter  
than usual.**

# **Daniel 3:20**

**Then he ordered some of the strongest men of his army to bind Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego and throw them into the blazing furnace.**



# Daniel 3:21

So they tied them up and threw them into the furnace, fully dressed in their pants, turbans, robes, and other garments.

# Daniel 3:22

**And because the king, in his anger,  
had demanded such a hot fire in  
the furnace, the flames killed the  
soldiers as they threw the three  
men in.**

# **Daniel 3:23**

**So Shadrach, Meshach, and  
Abednego, securely tied, fell into  
the roaring flames.**



# **Daniel 3:24a**

**But suddenly, Nebuchadnezzar  
jumped up in amazement and  
exclaimed to his advisers, “Didn’t  
we tie up three men and throw  
them into the furnace?”**

# Daniel 3:24b

**“Yes, your Majesty, we certainly did,” they replied.**

# Daniel 3:25

**“Look!” Nebuchadnezzar shouted.  
“I see four men, unbound, walking  
around in the fire unharmed!  
And the fourth looks like a son  
of the gods!”**



# **Daniel 3:26a**

**Then Nebuchadnezzar came as close as he could to the door of the flaming furnace and shouted:**

# **Daniel 3:26b**

**“Shadrach, Meshach, and  
Abednego, servants of the Most  
High God, come out! Come here!”**

**So Shadrach, Meshach, and  
Abednego stepped out of the fire.**

# **Daniel 3:27a**

**Then the high officers, officials,  
governors, and advisers crowded  
around them and saw that the fire  
had not touched them.**



# **Daniel 3:27b**

**Not a hair on their heads was singed, and their clothing was not scorched. They didn't even smell of smoke!**

**Instead of asking God to keep you  
from the fire, instead of doing  
everything in your power to avoid  
the fire, you need to locate  
Jesus in the fire.**

# Principle #5

**God is always with us in the fire,  
and He alone has the power to  
save us in the middle of the fire.**



# Principle #6

**Sometimes it is through horrible pain, suffering, injustice, and death that the world is able to see and experience what real faith in God looks like and smells like.**

# **Daniel 3:28a**

**Then Nebuchadnezzar said, “Praise  
to the God of Shadrach, Meshach,  
and Abednego! He sent his angel  
to rescue his servants who  
trusted in him.**

# **Daniel 3:28b**

**They defied the king's command  
and were willing to die rather than  
serve or worship any god except  
their own God.**



# **Daniel 3:29a**

**Therefore, I make this decree: If  
any people, whatever their race or  
nation or language, speak a word  
against the God of Shadrach,  
Meshach, and Abednego,**

# **Daniel 3:29b**

**they will be torn limb from limb,  
and their houses will be turned into  
heaps of rubble. There is no other  
god who can rescue like this!”**

# **Daniel 3:30**

**Then the king promoted Shadrach,  
Meshach, and Abednego to even  
higher positions in the province  
of Babylon.**



# Principle #6

**Sometimes it is through horrible pain, suffering, injustice, and death that the world is able to see and experience what real faith in God looks like and smells like.**



# 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**