

What? In the World – Part 2

“Connecting without Compromising Your Faith”

September 17, 2017, Sermon by: Pastor Bryan Tomes

Question From Last Week:

- **Are you a thermostat or a thermometer?**
 - Are you someone who impacts your world,
 - Or merely an indicator of what the climate is?
 - Are you someone who makes things happen, someone that things happen to, or someone that says “what happened?”
 - Be somebody who makes things happen.
 - You can be somebody who stands out rather than blends in

Today we are continuing the series on the life of Daniel entitled "**What? In The World**" and in this series we will learn from Daniel:

- How we can stand out instead of just blending in.
- How to go up when everyone else is going down!
- How we can connect without compromise.

Background:

- The book of Daniel is about the Sovereignty of God from chapter to chapter we see how God uses Daniel.
- Daniel was a prophet in the OT who was carried off as a Hebrew boy during the Babylonian exile.
- He was transplanted from what was supposed to be a Holy Nation to an Un-Holy One.

- **Daniel & His Friends Stood Out in Babylon, They Didn't Blend In - They Had Purpose!**
 - **Recap** –First, we need to be Identifiable as a Child of God. People should be able to see that you've been with God, you know God, and that you are a child of God.
 - The chief of staff in Babylonia selected those who were well versed, gifted with good Judgement (they make good decisions), and suited to serve (as Christians we should be serving)
 - We see that the Babylonians were ultimately trying to take "Jehovah" out of the picture.
 - The US today is trying to take God out of the picture
 - The things you watch on television go against the word of God.
 - But you can connect without having to lay down the things of God to take up the things of men.
 - Once you are filled with the goodness of the Lord there isn't anything strong enough to take it from you. Let the inward change take place to bring great change on the outside.
 - The Babylonians did all they can to change who they were. Have you noticed that once you become a Christian some are trying to change you back to who you used to be.

The bible states that you have now become a new creation. The old things have passed away and you have become new. (2 Cor 5:17). The presence of God in you brings change. In the OT, the Ark of the Covenant carried the presence of God, and wherever the ark was, the people were blessed. That is why David went and brought the ark back and danced in the presence of God.

The presence of God is the most valuable commodity we have on this earth. It brings increase to every part of our life, finances, and emotions. We should trust the spirit of God.

- They put these young men in their schools
 - They were feeding them Babylonian literature and culture
 - They placed them within their courts
 - They were seducing them with their delicacies and their appetites
- **Last week I told you that there were 3 words that would categorize Daniel's life:**
- **Purpose, Prayer & Prophecy**
 - **There is another word that categorizes the life of Daniel: PURITY**
Daniel lived a life of purity – when you have the purity of God, you have the power of God and the promises of God flowing in your life.
 - **Webster's:** Freedom from adulteration/contamination
 - **Bible: OT = Heb. *niqqayon***
 - In the Old Testament, the basic sense of this Hebrew word for purity is an "emptying out" or "being cleaned."
 - **Bible NT = Gk. *hagneia*.**
 - In the New Testament, there is little emphasis on Ritual Purity. Rather, the focus is on morality or purification.

To resist or push back things that are immoral or contrary to the spirit of God.
Sin is a learned behavior by someone pushing their system or culture on you.
God wants us to live a life that's pure, holy and dedicated to the things of God.

Text: 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.*

- **Title: "What Are You Full Of"**

Daniel was wise on how to address the issue – God has given you His spirit of wisdom to lead and guide you into victory.

Here are steps to live godly in an ungodly society.

1. **Determine To Ingest What's Right Not What's Offered.**

- We live in a world that is constantly in our face and constantly trying to fill us with consumerism
There's an agenda that this world is pushing on us every day – thru TV and other media. We are a consumer based society and they want to feed what your appetite is craving.
- Daniel refused to ingest what everybody else was served
 - **Whatever you're feasting on is what you'll be eventually be full of.**

When you keep feeding your flesh, your flesh gets strong and starts taking over your body and your spirit feels weak. But if you feed your spirit-man with the Word of God, and focus on the things of God, and pray, and get connected .. as you feed your spirit-man, he is able to conquer your flesh-man and drive him out of your system.

- **Daniel was in Covenant w/ God**

- Whatever they were serving Daniel -He didn't want
 - It's not because Daniel didn't want it, he was in covenant with God
 - It's because he felt God didn't want it and he wanted what God wanted

When someone is trying to offer you things not of God, say no. And get OUT of those relationships, remove yourself from their lives – they'll want to take you down but God wants to take you up.

The most important people are the ones who feed your faith.

- **Daniel wanted to please the Lord -**
 - He Honored Covenant
 - He had a "HEART" for God .. .

2. **Decide Purity Is a Matter Of The Heart**

People want to do things to bring change – they think if they do this or that, than God will change their life. That's a stepping stone – but what's going to change your life is changing your heart. Whatever you set your affections on, you're heading towards.

- **Jesus in the new testament elaborated on this**
- **Mark 7:15** - *It's not what goes into your body that defiles you; you are defiled by what comes from your heart."*

Daniel's issue wasn't the food that was going to go into him, but that he was going to have to serve and follow someone else's god. He had determined in his heart to only do what God wanted him to do. Daniel went on a fast against the things that the world was offering so he could feast of the things of God.

- Man sins first in the heart long before he acts
- Purity isn't a matter of action it is a matter of the heart.
- Purity isn't just saying "NO" to Sin.
- Purity is saying "YES" to God.
- Remember Purity Isn't Just Morality
- It's a "Clearing Out" & "Filling Up"
 - Illustration of Water & Oil - it's not just cleaning up what's on the outside. It's the things, sin, on the inside that needs to be removed.
 - In Celebrate Recovery, the point is to recover and move out to a healthy life – not to stay in recovery for life.
 - There's only one thing that can eradicate the sin in your heart, and that's the blood of Jesus Christ. Only the Living Water can drive all the contamination out of your heart and purify it.
 - People want to deal with sin on the outside, but it's a heart matter.

3. Declare Purity Brings Power & Promotion

Daniel 1:17 - *God gave these four young men an unusual aptitude for understanding every aspect of literature and wisdom. And God gave Daniel the special ability to interpret the meanings of visions and dreams.*

Daniel 1:20 - *Whenever the king consulted them in any matter requiring wisdom and balanced judgment, he found them ten times more capable than any of the magicians and enchanters in his entire kingdom.*

Daniel 1:21 - Daniel remained in the Royal Service until the 1st year of the reign of King Cyrus

Because they chose to eat something different than everybody else, God made their aptitude to increase, God made them 10 times more viable for use in the kingdom. Purity comes with a promise and a promotion.

Closing

Nothing hurts my heart more than to see people struggle with the same thing year after year. And if we'd just let Christ come in and change us from the inside, everything on the outside would change. People have faith for salvation but not for the keeping power of Christ. People have faith for salvation but not trust in God for financial and the tithes. Whatever you have faith for is going to work in your lives.

Psalms 24:3-5 - *Who may climb the mountain of the LORD? Who may stand in his holy place? Only those whose hands and hearts are pure, who do not worship idols and never tell lies. They will receive the LORD's blessing and have a right relationship with God their savior.*

Purity brings forth a promise, the power and the promotion of God. As you yield yourself to the power of God, He lifts you up and drives out all the contamination out of you so you don't have to do the same sin over and over and over again. God can absolutely and radically deliver you today by His mighty hand. That's who He is.

It's not saying no to sin, but YES to God, and He'll put something in you that you'll never want to do those things again.

Jesus came to eradicate sin and to fill us with His spirit so we can have life and life abundantly.

If you need a life change, pray:

Lord, forgive me for my sins, the ones I know about and the ones I don't know about. Cleanse me with your blood and drive out every impurity and fill me with Your presence. Put my name in the Lamb's book of life and change my life forever. And Lord, I'm thankful that I can be called a child of God. Set me free and fill me to overflowing. In Jesus' name. Amen.