



Culture Clash (Living Godly in an ungodly age)

Lesson 2: Culture's Challenge January 31 & February 1

We are called to cast-off cultures labels

Romans 12:2 Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is--his good, pleasing and perfect will. *New International Version*

Daniel 1:1 In the third year of the reign of Jehoiakim king of Judah, Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon came to Jerusalem and besieged it. **2** And the Lord delivered Jehoiakim king of Judah into his hand, along with some of the articles from the temple of God. These he carried off to the temple of his god in Babylonia and put in the treasure house of his god. *New International Version*

Daniel 1:3 Then the king ordered **Ashpenaz**, chief of his court officials, to bring into the king's service some of the Israelites from the royal family and the nobility - **4** young men without any physical defect, handsome, showing aptitude for every kind of learning, well informed, quick to understand, and qualified to serve in the king's palace. He was to teach them the language and literature of the Babylonians. *New International Version*

Daniel 1:5 The king assigned them a daily amount of food and wine from the king's table. **They were to be trained for three years**, and after that they were to enter the king's service. *New International Version*

Daniel 1:6 Among those who were chosen were some from Judah: Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael and Azariah. **7** The chief official gave them new names: to Daniel, the name Belteshazzar; to Hananiah, Shadrach; to Mishael, Meshach; and to Azariah, Abednego. *New International Version*

Daniel – God is my judge

2Corinthians 5:9 So we make it our goal to please him, whether we are at home in the body or away from it. **10 For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ**, so that each of us may receive what is due us for the things done while in the body, whether good or bad. **11 Since, then, we know** what it is to fear the Lord, we try to persuade others. *New International Version*

Belteshazzar – Bel will protect

Culture will tell you

Your actions have no consequences

Hananiah – Favored of God

James 1:2 Dear brothers and sisters, when troubles of any kind come your way, consider it an opportunity for great joy. *New Living Translation*

James 1:16 So don't be misled, my dear brothers and sisters. **17** Whatever is good and perfect is a gift coming down to us from God our Father, who created all the lights in the heavens. **He never changes or casts a shifting shadow.** **18** He chose to give birth to us by giving us his true word. And we, out of all creation, became his prized possession. *New Living Translation*

Shadrach – Fearful of God

Culture will tell you

God is bad

Mishael – Godlike

Colossians 1: 22 Yet now he has reconciled you to himself through the death of Christ in his physical body. As a result, he has brought you into his own presence, and **you are holy and blameless** as you stand before him **without a single fault.** *New Living Translation*

Meshach – Sin Like

Culture will tell you

You were born that way

Azariah – God is my helper

Isaiah 43:2 When you're in over your head, **I'll be there** with you. When you're in rough waters, **you will not go down**. When you're between a rock and a hard place, **it won't be a dead end** **3** Because I am God, your personal God, The Holy of Israel, your Savior. **Message Bible**

Abednego – Self-sufficient

Culture will tell you

You don't need God

Daniel's first challenge

Eating food God commanded them not to eat (Daniel 1:8-17)

Going God's way makes your life better

Daniel 1:18 At the end of the time set by the king to bring them into his service, the chief official presented them to Nebuchadnezzar. **19** The king talked with them, and he **found none equal** to Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael and Azariah; so they entered the king's service. **20 In every matter** of wisdom and understanding about which the king questioned them, he found them **ten times better** than all the magicians and enchanters in his whole kingdom. **New International Version**