

“The Power of a Worshiping People— Confronting Authorities” Daniel 6

Central Thought: *When we live Godwardly, we gain the wisdom, balance and courage to stand for Christ’s Kingdom in ungodly political situations.*

1. Daniel principles for confronting authorities

- v.10—Daniel p_____ Darius’ law by obeying God’s law.
- v.16—Daniel o_____ the law by accepting the consequences.
- vv.14, 18—Daniel c_____ the king with his life and not words.
- v.21—Daniel w_____ God and h_____ the king. (1 Peter 2:17)
- vv.21-22—Daniel c_____ his deliverance and his innocence to God = WORSHIP!!
- vv.25-28—The h_____ of the king and THEN the laws of the n_____ changed.

2. Enduring the fire of unjust authorities—fixing our eyes on Jesus.

- Submit to earthly authorities as to C_____. Ephesians 5:20; 6:5; 1 Peter 2:13-17
- O_____ either by following the law or by taking the punishment for disobedience. Philippians 2:8
- F_____ to preserve life—especially the lives of others. Mark 13:13-15
 - D_____ the defenseless with your life. John 13:34-5; 15:13
- Do not respond in f_____. 1 Peter 3:14; 1 John 4:19
- Respond positively / for Christ rather than negatively / against authority. Isaiah 53:7; 1 Peter 2:23
 - Be p__active, not r__active. Daniel 6:10
 - Make a goal not to “w____” but to communicate Jesus to others. Matthew 5:16; 1 Peter 2:12
- Pray for those who p_____ you. Matthew 5:11-12, 44
- Never c_____ faith in Christ—especially to protect yourself. Matthew 10:32-33; Hebrews 4:14
- Belief that d_____ is better than denial or compromise. Luke 9:23-26; Philippians 1:21
- Believe that we are receiving a Kingdom that cannot be s_____. Hebrews 11:16; 12:28

Word bank: Christ, compromise, confronted, connected, death, defend, flee, heart, honored, nation, negatively, obey, obeyed, persecute, positively, pro-, protested, re-, shaken, win, worshiped

Questions for home groups / personal meditation

- What are the authorities in my life (marriage/family, school, relationships, church, business, vocation, society, government)?
- How do those authorities view my life? Do they see me, like the king saw Daniel?
- In which kingdom would those in authority over me say that I live as a *true* citizen—God’s or the world’s? Why?
- Is the righteousness of my life a threat to any authority?
- In what ways am I positioned to take a stand (neighborhood, government, business, expat, political refugee)?
- How is ECB as a faith community positioned to take a stand? Are we?
- In what ways am I fearful of standing against my government? What would it cost me to do so?
- Do I believe that God would sustain me in standing against authorities?
- Am I willing to give up my life? Does God have permission to take my life?