

STAYING CONNECTED

Part 3: In A Challenging Environment

OUR CURRENT ENVIRONMENT AND CULTURE

- Does not support living for God
 1. An undercurrent that flows away from God
 2. A media environment that ranges from dismissive to disdainful
 3. Man and man's knowledge is exalted over God
- We have to stay intentionally determined to stay connected to God (***Romans 12:1-2 CSB***)
 1. We have to do something with our bodies - a living sacrifice
 2. We have to renew our mindset, our perspective
 3. A transformed life is the goal - not a conformed life

FOUR MEN WHO THRIVED IN AN ADVERSARIAL ENVIRONMENT

- Given the golden ticket (***Daniel 1:3-7 CSB***)
 1. Taken from an insignificant nation to the most advanced nation and culture
 2. Given an opportunity to live on a much higher level than the other captives
- Were forced into a culture that had no regard for their God
 1. The school's purpose was to indoctrinate them into Chaldean culture
 2. Their names were changed to take God out
 3. Forced to learn a new language
 4. Forced to change their food - to foods that were forbidden by God
- The four determined (purposed in heart) not to be defiled
 1. Defile = to pollute, stain, make impure
 2. Asked for a test - godly wisdom (***Daniel 1:8-9, 14-20 CSB***)
 3. God caused them to stand out - better looking and smarter than their peers

TO STAY CONNECTED, STAY ON GUARD

- Guard against things that defile you (***James 1:27 CSB***)
 1. The Old Testament was involved with outward things - don't touch, don't eat
 2. Things that defile, pollute, stain today are inside things
 3. Words, arguments, and worthless information (***2 Timothy 2:14-17 NLT***)
- Guard against identity theft
 1. How we identify is a connector or separator
 2. Our identity in Christ is a connector to Him (***Colossians 2:6-7 NLT***)
 3. We don't allow the flow/thinking of this age to define us
 4. We speak a different language