DANIEL: Spiritual Resolve

Pastor Derek Sanford

May 15, 2016

**Life Group Discussion Questions:**

1. Describe how you see the climate of our culture today. How are Christians responding? How should we be responding? (*Leaders, note the responses to this question and then revisit it at the end of this sermon series to consider how perspectives may have changed.)*
2. Read **Daniel chapter 1**. Thinking back on this week’s sermon and reflecting on this passage, is there a particular point that challenges you, confuses you, or catches your attention?
3. The first of Derek’s 3 lessons on “How to maintain your spiritual resolve in Babylon” is to “Remember God’s SOVEREIGNTY.” Read **Jeremiah 25:1-14** and reread **Daniel 1:1-3**. What do these passages tell us about God? Read **Romans 13:1**. What does it mean that He is sovereign? What assurance does this give us?
4. Derek said, “a godless society tries to force us to compromise…outside forces will always try to tempt us to settle for less than God’s best.” Read **Daniel 1:4-7**. How were Daniel and his friends ISOLATED, INDOCTRINATED, COMPROMISED, and given new IDENTITIES? How have you felt these pressures?
5. Read **Daniel 1:8-21**. Derek’s second lesson was “Wisely determine where and how to take your STAND.” How does Paul encourage us to do this in **Ephesians 6:10-18**? Read **Colossians 4:5-6**. With what attitude should we take our stand? Is this how we generally see Christians taking a stand in our culture? How can we put this into practice?
6. Daniel took his stand on food, but not on the change in his name, nor the lessons in indoctrination. In what areas of your life must you take a stand? Where should you not resist? Derek said, “when you are ‘anti’ everything, eventually everyone will tune you out.” Is this a hard or reassuring statement for you?
7. Derek’s final lesson was “Find SUPPORT with like-minded people.” Do you feel like you stand alone? How can you as a life group stand together?

**Next Steps:** Where do you need to resolve in your heart to obey God? Where do you need to take a stand against isolation, indoctrination, compromise or identity? What battle is God calling you to fight? (Consider asking one another to check-in throughout the next week and encourage one another outside of group time.)

**Prayer Thought:** Pray for one another, specifically for the areas in which obedience and a firm stand are required.

*God, I resolve to bring this area under the Lordship not of the kinds of this world, not under the kings of this culture, but under the Lordship of the one true King, my King. You are the One who is sovereign over all. And today is the day that I take my stand.AMEN!*