

Text: Daniel 1:2-8; 3:12-18; 6:4-5, 10

Discerning the Boundary between Faithfulness and Compromise

- What cultural practices, that are not _____, can I participate in without sacrificing my _____ Christian identity?

- What cultural practices, that are not obviously sinful, should I choose to _____ to _____ my distinctively Christian identity?

Neutralizing Societal Pressures

- The _____ of our _____.

- See worldly _____ and _____ truthfully.

- Make _____ a priority over _____.

Persisting Under Opposition

- Persisting requires an _____ character.

- Be _____.

- Be consistent in _____.

Life Enrichment

What about today's teaching challenged, disturbed, or encouraged you?

- In Matthew 10:16, why is Jesus insistent that His followers be shrewd? Why do you think innocence is a necessary balance for shrewdness?
- What are some American cultural practices that are okay for Christians to participate in?
- How can we discern which *non-sinful* cultural practices to avoid for the sake of being light in the darkness?
- What are some biblical practices that would demonstrate Christ to our community?
- Why do you think it's so important to preserve our Christian identity?
- What are some sources of social pressure in our community? How do you resist them?
- Why do you think personal security is sometimes viewed as more important than obedience to God? How can we make certain that obedience is our priority?
- When reading Daniel 3, what impresses you about Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego's response to the king? What does it teach us about a balanced/biblical faith?
- Why is character such a big deal in being able to persist under opposition?
- When the world assaults your character, how do you typically respond? How is it the same or different from Daniel's response? Explain.