

LIFE GROUP SERMON SUMMARY QUESTIONS

Watch the video summary of the **September 7, 2014 Sermon** (3.5 minutes), "Truth and Tolerance." Please read the sermon passage (Daniel 1:1-21) together out loud.

Life Group Questions (Daniel 1:1-21)

Sermon Outline:

IN THE TESTING OF OUR FAITH . . .

1. **Be aware of the cultural changes we now face.** (1-7)
 - a. We will face political changes that are subject to God's sovereignty.
 - b. We will face personal changes that subject to God's sovereignty.
2. **Be aware of the Scriptural standards we must apply.** (8-16)
 - a. Daniel was insulated in the world by the Scriptures.
 - b. Biblical conviction is "absolute truth" with "relative tolerance," NOT "absolute tolerance" with "relative truth."
3. **Be aware of the Scriptural distinctives we will present.** (17-21)
 - a. The king did the testing, but only under the Lord's sovereignty.
 - b. Internal convictions are testable, in God's timing, in external ways.

Life Group Discussion Questions

1. Based on #1, above: Since all authority comes from God, political changes are under his sovereign control. What political changes do you fear? Yet God is in control of them.
2. Based on #1, above: How do we balance our great theology (God is in perfect control of all political changes), with our personal responsibility (to work for the good of our country)?
3. Based on #2, above: The best way we can teach our children to be "insulated in the world" by fully obeying Scripture is by modeling it ourselves with humility. Where would your kids say you were successful in this endeavor? Where would they say you failed?
4. Based on #2, above: Daniel did not get on a public "soapbox" or join an "anti-Babylon Facebook group." He quietly asked the king for permission to opt out of that which violated his Christian conscience. Do you tend to make your obedience and convictions a public display? Or are you okay with quiet submission? Give an example.
5. Based on #3, above: When his spiritual convictions turned out to be beneficial, Daniel did not seem to have a "look at me" or "see, I told you so" kind of attitude. He knew that his internal convictions were tested only for God's glory. In what ways do you give God glory when you are tested?