



Be on your guard; stand firm in the faith; be courageous; be strong. Do everything in love. 1 Corinthians 16:13-14

How some respond to culture:

- Some shut down and **cower** to the culture.
- Some engage the culture in an **unspiritual** way.
- Some become **like** the culture.

Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Romans 12:2

God did not give us a spirit of cowardice but rather of power and love and self-control. 2 Timothy 1:7

- God's Spirit enables us to stand with **love**.

3 Then the king ordered Ashpenaz, chief of his court officials, to bring into the king's service some of the Israelites from the royal family and the nobility— 4 young men without any physical defect, handsome, showing aptitude for every kind of learning, well informed, quick to understand, and qualified to serve in the king's palace. He was to teach them the language and literature of the Babylonians. 5 The king assigned them a daily amount of food and wine from the king's table. They were to be trained for three years, and after that they were to enter the king's service. 6 Among those who were chosen were some from Judah: Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael and Azariah. Daniel 1:3-6

- There are always things in our lives that have to be **removed** from our lives if we are going to stand out for God.
- We stand out **for** God when we're resolved to stand **with** God.

Three things culture will try to do to you if you let it:

- The culture will try to **rename** you.

Daniel - God is my Judge.

Belteshazzar : Lady protect the King

- Standing out means we get our **identity** from God.

Hananiah: Yahweh has been gracious.

Shadrach: I am fearful of God.

- Standing out means I have **confidence** in God.

Mishael : There is nobody like my God.

Meshach: I am despised, contemptible and humiliated.

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- Standing out means we sometimes **speak out**.

Azariah: Yahweh has helped me.

Abednego: Servant of Nebo

- Standing out means we are a part of the **family** of God.

When culture shifts:

- When culture shifts it will try to **name** you.

But Daniel resolved not to defile himself with the royal food and wine, and he asked the chief official for permission not to defile himself this way. Daniel 1:8

- Culture will try to **tame** you.

Now God had caused the official to show favor and compassion to Daniel, 10 but the official told Daniel, "I am afraid of my lord the king, who has assigned your food and drink. Why should he see you looking worse than the other young men your age? The king would then have my head because of you." Daniel 1:9-10

Daniel then said to the guard whom the chief official had appointed over Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael and Azariah, "Please test your servants for ten days: Give us nothing but vegetables to eat and water to drink. Then compare our appearance with that of the young men who eat the royal food, and treat your servants in accordance with what you see." So he agreed to this and tested them for ten days. Daniel 1:11-14

- Culture is trying to **claim** you as its own.

When culture shifts, never **give in** to the pressure.

In every matter of wisdom and understanding about which the king questioned them, he found them ten times better than all the magicians and enchanterers in his whole kingdom. Daniel 1:20

Two questions:

- Am I going to **change the world** or let the world **change me**?

- Will my identity come from **God** or from the **world**?

If anyone is ashamed of Me and My words in this adulterous and sinful generation, the Son of Man will also be ashamed of him when He comes in His Father's glory with the holy angels." Mark 8:38 (NLT)

But whoever denies Me before men, I will also deny him before My Father in heaven. Matthew 10:33 (NLT)
For sin's power over us was broken when we became Christians and were baptized to become a part of Jesus Christ. Romans 6:3 (TLB)

TO CREATIVELY LOVE AND LEAD PEOPLE IN A GROWING RELATIONSHIP WITH JESUS.

Questions that can be used in Connection Groups:

These questions also work well for personal time with God.

- What scripture and/or point spoke most to you from the Talk on Sunday? Explain why?
- Do you find it more and more difficult to live a godly life in this ungodly culture? Explain.
- Do you find any similarities between Daniel's culture and the culture today? Explain.
- Why is it important for us to stand out from the culture we live in?
- How does the culture try to rename us? What does it mean to get our identity from God?
- How does confidence in God cause us to stand out?
- How does speaking out cause us to stand out? When we speak out, it must always be with what?
1 Cor. 16:4
- How does being in the family of God case us to stand out?
- How does this ungodly culture try to tame us as believers/followers?
- How can we prevent giving in to the pressure of an ungodly culture?

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Today's Talk..



**“Stand Out
For God”**