



November 10/11, 2018

Sermon Title: Respect and Favor

by: Pastor Rock Dillaman

Scripture: Daniel 1:8-9: But Daniel made up his mind that he would not defile himself with the king's choice food or with the wine which he drank; so he *sought permission* from the commander of the officials that he might not defile himself. Now God granted Daniel favor and compassion in the sight of the commander of the officials.

1. The pressures of temptation don't have to produce compromise.
2. The pressures exerted upon Jesus' followers by corrupt culture can be made to firm up our faith!
3. Our decisions not only reflect our character; they shape it. Obeying God makes us more courageous. Obeying our fears makes us more cowardly.
4. Our first "Yes" to God will always be the hardest, while our first "No" to compromise will always be the easiest.
5. Delayed obedience is the most difficult obedience!
6. Faith has to refuse many things, but those refusals are more attractive when they're spoken in grace.
7. Our witness is damaged when a godly decision is communicated in an uncaring, ungodly fashion!
8. Faith doesn't stifle intelligence; it liberates it.
9. Those who worship God possess far more power than those who worship power!
10. God doesn't always validate our obedience immediately. Sometimes His validation comes later.

Growth Group Questions

Sermon Title: Respect and Favor



WARM-UP

1. 44 days until Christmas! How does that make you feel and why? (anxious, stressed, joyful, etc?)
2. What is your favorite holiday and why?

DISCUSSION

1. What did you find most challenging, helpful, or troubling in the sermon today and why?
2. Can you identify times in your life where God has granted you favor with the unbelieving culture?
3. Are there ways the church's witness has been compromised because we've communicated God's truth in an uncaring, ungodly fashion?
4. Can you identify anything in your life right now that is conforming more to the culture than it is to God's agenda for your life? If so, what is it?
5. Are you currently facing any "hard choices" that are causing you to hesitate and delay your obedience? Is "fear" obstructing your view forward? How can you overcome fear with God's help?

IN THE WORD

Consider some of the passages below and discuss any insights into today's message.

- 2 Timothy 2:24-26
- Romans 8:11; 1 Corinthians 3:16; 1 John 4:13
- Proverbs 16:7; 15:1
- 1 Peter 3:15
- Colossians 4:6

PRACTICE

- Spend some time with God asking Him to grant you "favor" with the unbelieving culture as you go about your week. In the Spirit's power, resolve to love and bless your enemies and those who mistreat you (Luke 6:28; Philippians 4:13; Ephesians 3:16-17).