

PURE HEART, PURE LIFE

Daniel 1:8-21

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INTRO:

Living between two worlds

A. DANIEL'S FAITHFULNESS

1. He decided beforehand that he would be **pure** before God (v. 8a)
2. He did not impose his **personal** beliefs on others (v. 8b)
3. He demonstrated his convictions **politely** (v. 9)
4. He believes that principles will eventually be **put to the test** (v. 10-13)

B. DANIEL'S FAVOR

1. God allowed him to **flourish** (v. 15-16)
2. God gave him **fullness** in the aspects of knowledge, understanding, wisdom and interpretation of dreams (v. 17)
3. God made him **finer** compared to others (v. 18-20)
4. God gave him **favor** with a long and successful career (v. 1, 21)

CONCLUSION:

Purity is not just about **avoiding** certain things but **embracing** God's will wholeheartedly.

LIFE GROUP QUESTIONS

1. Icebreaker. Share some interesting experiences you have had in a different country (food, language, customs, practices, social mores, etc.).
2. In Daniel 1:8, what does it mean when Daniel "resolved not to defile himself with the royal food and wine," and how does this decision reflect his faith? What might have been the cultural and spiritual challenges behind his decision?
3. What risks did Daniel and his friends face in refusing the royal food, and what does this tell us about their faith?
4. How did God respond to Daniel and his friends' faithfulness (Daniel 1:15-17)? What can we learn about the relationship between obedience to God and His blessings?
5. How can we learn to trust God with the outcome of our obedience, even when it's difficult?
6. In concluding the sermon, our pastor states, "Purity is not just about avoiding certain things but embracing God's will wholeheartedly." What is the implication of this statement in how we live our lives in a culture that is continually opposed to Christian beliefs?
7. Daniel's story encourages us to trust that God sees our faithfulness and will honor it, even when the immediate outcome is uncertain. God may not always provide in ways we expect, but we can trust that He works all things for our good and His glory. This trust grows through prayer, staying grounded in Scripture, and relying on the Holy Spirit to guide us in challenging situations. Pray for one another to be like Daniel and his friends, who remained pure but saw God's favor and blessings.