

Sermon Series: Game Changer  
 To be used with: Session Three: Stand Courageously  
 Sermon Title Possibilities: Don't Compromise!  
 Scripture: Daniel 3:13-18,26-28

**Connection with Unit Theme:** To complement the small group study of *Game Changer: How to Impact Your World* these sermon outlines will use similar Scripture passages to reinforce the same themes as the study regarding missional living.

**Introduction:** The world stands in opposition to God and beckons us to join them. We see church kids (and adults) get caught up in drugs. We see church members choose to have extra-marital affairs. We see leaders and ministers get caught in the trap of pornography. We see Sunday school girls getting abortions...and perhaps the boys paying for them. It looks like the world is doing a pretty good job.

Why don't Christians stand firm in their convictions? Maybe it has something to do with the lack of convictions. God has set a standard of holiness for us in His Word. We have to actually choose to do the right thing. Remember the "Just Say No" anti-drug campaign of the 1980's? Even the secular world gets it that you have to make a conscious decision to not do something bad. As Children of the Most High God, filled with the Holy Spirit, we have greater power than the rest of the world to walk rightly.

NOTE: The emphasis of this session is standing courageously and refusing to compromise. Session six will build on this session by emphasizing the importance of doing what is right in the face of opposition.

### **1. Your commitment to the Lord will often cause clashes with the world. (verses 13-15)**

- A. Because religion and politics were tightly bound together, refusal to worship the statue was also an act of treason. The punishment was swift and severe.
- B. Today in America, it seems that politics is often in direct opposition to Christianity. "Political Correctness" has become the norm, and speaking truth has become hate speech.
- C. We read in the news about bakeries, pizza parlors, and other business being fined for standing firm in their religious convictions and not compromising their values. The business owners have lines they refuse to cross for profit or to be politically correct.

### **2. You must stand against a hostile world with immovable faith. (verses 16-18)**

- A. Be willing to stand even if God doesn't step in and rescue you. Daniel told the king that even if God didn't rescue them, they weren't going to compromise their convictions. They knew what it meant to defy the king.
- B. After having seen business fined exorbitant amounts for "discrimination," the word is out as to what it may cost to courageously stand up to the government. The media

sensationalizes each occurrence to boost ratings and possibly send a warning to other Christian business owners.

C. Some business owners, such as David Green of Hobby Lobby, have stood firm all the way to the U.S. Supreme Court. While most of us won't have to go that far, we simply don't know what the future may bring to individuals who disagree with the current season of ungodliness.

### **3. Honor God by loving Him more than your own life. (verses 26-28)**

A. Daniel and his two friends put their money where their mouth was. They made the bold claim that they wouldn't bow to the idol even if it meant their death. When the king had them thrown in the furnace, they didn't back down or beg for mercy.

B. For them, the decision was personal with personal consequences. We, too, face personal decisions to either stand up for our convictions or buckle under and compromise what we believe. There are consequences for us, too, but probably not to the point of shedding our blood.

C. We must, however, be willing to die for what we believe. Realize that we have been bought with a price and belong to God through Jesus. While we don't seek martyrdom, it becomes more and more of a possibility as we follow Jesus.

**Conclusion/Application** – It is very easy to compromise when we are pressured by our friends. We must set our hearts to stand firm in the face of sin. Most of us will never know persecution like the rest of the Christian world knows. In some way, that makes it more challenging, because it doesn't seem like we have to choose to follow God's ways every day. But we do. Here are some ways to be courageous in the face of compromise:

- Realize that you belong to God because of what Jesus has done for you.
- Every morning when you wake up, commit yourself to follow God, no matter the consequences.
- Prayerfully evaluate your spiritual walk and ask God to show you areas of compromise. Confess those areas and ask God for the strength to change.

*Rick Boyne is pastor of Immanuel Southern Baptist Church in Wagoner, OK. Rick served with IMB in West Africa and East Asia with his wife and two daughters for 10 years.*