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Ecclesiastes 7:10

Matthew 5:14-16

What We Have to Keep Central:

- a. Christians have always lived in oppositional cultures
- b. Our enemy is Satan, not people
- c. God calls us to rescue people, not the culture
- d. Disagree with opinions, not people

Be resolved to obey God while still showing respect
towards those who disagree with you

1. God is no less **present** to you when your world is flipped upside down

Daniel 1:1-7

2 Chronicles 36:16

“God is in **control** of who’s in **control**” (Larry Osborne)

2. God blesses our **choices** to honor Him in the midst of opposition

Daniel 1:8-16

“The whole narrative of Daniel relates a series of contests between false god of human invention and the one true sovereign Lord and Creator of heaven and earth . . . ”

Expositors Bible Commentary (Gleason Archer Jr)

3. God’s goal might not be to **extract** you from this culture, but to use you as a person of **influence** in it

Daniel 1:17-21

Now What?

Be resolved to obey God while still showing respect towards those who disagree with you



Week of January 7

Resolved

Welcome back to Home Groups! This is the first week of the "Inverted" series. You can join a "Home Group" or hear the messages at www.trinityonline.org. You can reach us at (909) 335-7333, x141.



Share It

Was there a time when you felt out-of-place? Are there ways that you think our culture is "inverted?"



Study the Bible

We are walking through chapters 1-6 of "Daniel." He and other Jewish people were taken captive by the Babylonian empire in 605 B.C.. These chapters cover 68 years and reveal that God is sovereign, even when the culture is inverted. Read through chapter one and consider these questions.

What are some things you notice about Daniel's upbringing and character?

What do we learn about the Babylonian king and culture? ("King" occurs 128 times in six chapters.)

What was Daniel's concern about the foods and wine? (See Leviticus 11:4,7; 17:14. Note that the king's food and wine were offered to idols.)

How did Daniel and friends respond to their culture, leaders, and God? How was God working even in this situation?



Discuss Together

Our focus is on how we live “right-side up in an upside down world?” Do you think American culture is, in some ways, upside down?

Contrast Daniel and friends with their new culture. How might this compare to our situation?

God prophesied and allowed their captivity into that culture. What can we learn about living a “resolved” (1:8) life in our culture while being an influence for God? What is healthy and unhealthy?

What does it look like to apply the four “Keep Central” statements from Sunday?



Pray

Throughout “Daniel,” trusting God is always connected with prayer. To help us pray, we will text out prayer notes throughout the weeks. You can opt in by texting @tcpayer to 81010.

- Pray for the people in your world who don’t yet know Christ
- Pray for the International Friendship Connection team as they build relationships
- Pray for our young adults (high school, college, etc.) engaged in their worlds



Apply It This Week

Reread the four things we need to “Keep Central” from the Sunday message. Ask a friend to pray for you to be like Daniel this week.