

## Week #4: The Priority of Power and Love

Series Goal: We want to learn how to **STAND FIRM** and **LOVE WELL** in a culture of compromise.

*Darius the Mede decided to divide the kingdom into 120 provinces, and he appointed a high officer to rule over each province. The king also chose Daniel and two others as administrators to supervise the high officers and protect the king's interests. Daniel soon proved himself more capable than all the other administrators and high officers. Because of Daniel's great ability, the king made plans to place him over the entire empire. Then the other administrators and high officers began searching for some fault in the way Daniel was handling government affairs, but they couldn't find anything to criticize or condemn. He was faithful, always responsible, and completely trustworthy. So they concluded, "Our only chance of finding grounds for accusing Daniel will be in connection with the rules of his religion."*

Daniel 6:1-5 (NLT)

- We cannot **ANTAGONIZE** and **INFLUENCE** at the same time.

*When you're joined to the Anointed One, ...religious obligations can benefit you nothing. All that matters now is living in the faith that works and expresses itself through love.*

Galatians 5:6 (TPT)

### Without love:

- All I **SAY** is ineffective.

*If I could speak all the languages of earth and of angels, but didn't love others, I would only be a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal.*

1 Corinthians 13:1 (NLT)

- All I **KNOW** is insignificant.

*If I had the gift of prophecy, and if I understood all of God's secret plans and possessed all knowledge,*

1 Corinthians 13:2a (NLT)

- All I **BELIEVE** is insufficient.

*...and if I had such faith that I could move mountains, but didn't love others, I would be nothing.*

1 Corinthians 13:2b (NLT)

- All I **GIVE** or **ACCOMPLISH** is inadequate.

*If I gave everything I have to the poor and even sacrificed my body, I could boast about it; but if I didn't love others, I would have gained nothing.*

1 Corinthians 13:3 (NLT)

### Scripture tells us what love is:

*Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. It does not dishonor others, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres.*

1 Corinthians 13:4-7 (NIV)

*So at last the king gave orders for Daniel to be arrested and thrown into the den of lions. The king said to him, "May your God, whom you serve so faithfully, rescue you." A stone was brought and placed over the mouth of the den. The king sealed the stone with his own royal seal and the seals of his nobles, so that no one could rescue Daniel. Then the king returned to his palace and spent the night fasting. He refused his usual entertainment and couldn't sleep at all that night. Very early the next morning, the king got up and hurried out to the lions' den. When he got there, he called out in anguish, "Daniel, servant of the living God! Was your God, whom you serve so faithfully, able to rescue you from the lions?" Daniel answered, "Long live the king! My God sent his angel to shut the lions' mouths so that they would not hurt me, for I have been found innocent in his sight. And I have not wronged you, Your Majesty." The king was overjoyed and ordered that Daniel be lifted from the den. Not a scratch was found on him, for he had trusted in his God.*

Daniel 6:16-23 (NLT)



## Week #4: The Priority of Power and Love (cont.)

*"I decree that everyone throughout my kingdom should tremble with fear before the God of Daniel.*

*For he is the living God,  
and he will endure forever.*

*His kingdom will never be destroyed,  
and his rule will never end.*

*He rescues and saves his people;  
he performs miraculous signs and wonders  
in the heavens and on earth.*

*He has rescued Daniel from the power of the lions."*

*So Daniel prospered during the reign of Darius and the reign of Cyrus the Persian.*

Daniel 6:26-28 (NLT)

### Discussion Question

- Will I love others well the way love is defined in Scripture? (Read 1 Corinthians 13:4-7.)

### Recommended Resources

- *The Daniel Dilemma*, by Chris Hodges
- *Thriving in Babylon*, by Larry Osborne
- *Awake, Not Woke*, by Noelle Mering
- *Counter Culture*, by David Platt

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