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DISHONOR

to treat as common or ordinary

I will honor those who honor me, and I will despise those who think lightly of me. How to show honor in our worldly <u>culture</u> of <u>dishonor</u>?



We will never <u>overcome</u> the evil and dishonor in our culture with more evil and dishonor.

¹During the third year of King Jehoiakim's reign in Judah, King Nebuchadnezzar of Babylon came to Jerusalem and besieged it. ²The Lord gave him victory over King Jehoiakim of Judah and permitted him to take some of the sacred objects from the Temple of God. So Nebuchadnezzar took them back to the land of Babylonia and placed them in the treasure-house of his god.

When God's people move from honoring God to dishonoring Him, it opens the door for the enemy to come and kill, steal, and destroy.

³Then the king ordered Ashpenaz, his chief of staff, to bring to the palace some of the young men of Judah's royal family and other noble families, who had been brought to Babylon as captives.

Train these young men in the language and literature of Babylon." ⁵The king assigned them a daily ration of food and wine from his own kitchens. They were to be trained for three years, and then they would enter the royal service.

⁶Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah were four of the young men chosen, all from the tribe of Judah.

⁷The chief of staff renamed them with these Babylonian names:

Daniel was called Belteshazzar.

Hananiah was called Shadrach.

Mishael was called Meshach.

Azariah was called Abednego.

The purpose of the food, names, and education was simple. This was an effort at total <u>indoctrination</u>, with the goal of making these young Jewish men <u>leave</u> behind their Hebrew God and culture.

Satan uses a similar strategy against believers today, wanting to indoctrinate us into the culture of dishonor.



SATAN WANTS US TO:

Identify (name) us in reference to the world and their culture.

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<u>Identify</u> (name) us in reference to the world and their culture.

Feed us what the world offers.

Educate us in the ways of the world.



HE SET HIS HEART

⁸But Daniel resolved not to defile himself with the royal food and wine,

HE RESPONDED WITH HONOR NOT DISHONOR

he asked the chief official for permission not to defile himself this way.

HE REMEMBERED THE HONOR PRINCIPLE

⁹Now God had caused the official to show favor and compassion to Daniel,

HE WAS CONFIDENT
THAT GOD'S <u>WAYS</u> ARE
ALWAYS BETTER THAN
MAN'S <u>WAYS</u>

¹²"Please test your servants for ten days: Give us nothing but vegetables to eat and water to drink. ¹³Then compare our appearance with that of the young men who eat the royal food, and your servants in treat accordance with what you see." ¹⁴So he agreed to this and tested them for ten days.



GOD WORKED IN THEIR SITUATION

¹⁵At the end of the ten days they looked healthier and better nourished than any of the young men who ate the royal food.

THEIR CHOICE TO HONOR AND NOT DISHONOR AFFECTED OTHERS

¹⁶So the guard took away their choice food and the wine they were to drink and gave them vegetables instead.

GOD BLESSED THEM

¹⁷To these four young men God gave knowledge and understanding of all kinds of literature and learning. And Daniel could understand visions and dreams of all kinds.

OTHERS WERE ABLE TO SEE THAT THEIR LIVES OF HONOR WERE TEN TIMES GREATER THAN LIVES THAT SHOWED DISHONOR.

¹⁹The king talked with them, and he found none equal to Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael and Azariah; so they entered the king's service. ²⁰In every matter of wisdom understanding about which the king questioned them, he found them ten times better than all the magicians and enchanters in his whole kingdom.

Daniel and his friends show us that inner conviction and choosing to live a life of honor can overcome dishonor and any culture of dishonor we face, and that <u>God-honoring</u> convictions yield God-given <u>rewards</u>.

¹³For the Lord's sake, submit to all human authority—whether the king as head of state, ¹⁴or the officials he has appointed. For the king has sent them to punish those who do wrong and to honor those who do right.

¹⁵It is God's will that your honorable lives should silence those ignorant people who make foolish accusations against you. ¹⁶For you are free, yet you are God's slaves, so don't use your freedom as an excuse to do evil. ¹⁷Respect everyone, and love the family of believers. Fear God, and respect the king.