

WHOL-I-NESS

In My Physical Life - Daniel 1:1-21

October 15, 2008

1. What is the story behind the name you were given by your parents?
2. What nicknames have you picked up along the way? Any given to you while away from home, at school, camp or college? What are some of the nicknames you have for your children, nieces, or nephews? Why?
3. Recall your first days at college, camp or other away-from-home training. What was it like? What were you feeling? Did you ever feel you might have to compromise any of the values you had been taught to adhere to?



1.

How were these Israelite young men chosen and trained for the king's special service (vv. 3-7)? What does the "world" consider admirable and how does that differ to what God considers admirable?

2.

How did the king seek to capture their mind? Their body? Their loyalty? How does this compare with the world today; i.e. secular universities, government, TV, etc?

3.

What is conveyed by giving a new name to another (person or pet)?

4.

Why does Daniel resist these attempts by the foreign king (v. 8)?

5.

To whom and on what grounds does Daniel make his appeals for an exception to the king's edict (vv. 8-14)

6.

Why does Daniel end up passing his first "entrance exam" with "flying colors" (vv. 15-21)?

7.

How does Daniel end up showing his true loyalty is to God? And to his three fellow believers?

1.  
What was Daniel's most effective quality in his obedience to God? Does this work for us today?

2.  
What would be an equivalent choice between God's way and the "royal food" of the world today? What is at stake for you in that choice?

3.  
When your loyalty/obedience to God is tested (as was Daniel's), what are you most likely to do? What are some steps we can take NOW to assure our proper response?

4.  
As mature women we are in a unique position to instruct our children and grandchildren in how to daily live a life that brings glory to God. Sometimes in our humanity miss the mark from time to time; but our goal is to do our absolute best for Him. Discuss several practical ways this can be taught.

5.  
What do we learn from this lesson about our obedience to God; and as believers, what is one thing we can absolutely count on?



But Daniel resolved not to defile himself with the royal food and wine. . . Daniel 1:8a

Therefore, I urge you, brothers (sisters), in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as living sacrifices, holy and pleasing to God – this is your spiritual act of worship.  
Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is – His good, pleasing and perfect will. Romans 12:1-2

