

Daniel 6

“Courage OR Cowardice???”

Introduction

Note: When we lack courage, what we are really lacking is godly, Christ-like _____.

Note: Cowardice (being controlled by ungodly fear) is a serious _____!

Revelation 21:7-8 - “He who overcomes will inherit these things, and I will be his God and he will be My son. But for the cowardly and unbelieving and abominable and murderers and immoral persons and sorcerers and idolaters and all liars, their part will be in the lake that burns with fire and brimstone, which is the second death.”

Matthew 25:46 - “These will go away into eternal punishment, but the righteous into eternal life.”

Note: Those who are truly saved, truly love, and thus will exhibit _____ courage.

2 Timothy 1:7 - “For God has not given us a spirit of timidity, but of power and love and discipline.”

COURAGE is the resolve to persevere in obeying God no matter what the _____ may be.

Matthew 26:39, 42 - “My Father, if it is possible, let this cup pass from Me; yet not as I will, but as You will. ... My Father, if this cannot pass away unless I drink it, Your will be done.”

COWARDICE is allowing fear of man/pain/ridicule/loss to steal away our _____ to love & obey God.

Proverbs 29:25 - “The fear of man brings a snare, but he who trusts in the Lord will be exalted.”

Sinful COMPROMISE is the choice to delay/disregard obedience to God to save oneself from _____.

I. Courageous Commitment OR Cowardly Compromise???

A. Daniel 6:1-5: Courage to _____ God above EVERYTHING else!

Deuteronomy 6:5 - “You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your might.”

2 Corinthians 5:13-15 - “For if we are beside ourselves, it is for God; if we are of sound mind, it is for you. For the love of Christ controls us, having concluded this, that one died for all, therefore all died; and He died for all, so that they who live might no longer live for themselves, but for Him who died and rose again on their behalf.”

B. Daniel 6:6-11: Courage to publicly _____ & worship God even at great personal risk!

Mark 8:38 - “For whoever is ashamed of Me and My words in this adulterous and sinful generation, the Son of Man will also be ashamed of him when He comes in the glory of His Father with the holy angels.”

Romans 1:16 - “For I am not ashamed of the gospel, for it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes, to the Jew first and also to the Greek.”

C. Daniel 6:12-18: Courage to _____ God whether in life or in death!

John 21:18-19 - “Truly, truly, I say to you, when you were younger, you used to gird yourself and walk wherever you wished; but when you grow old, you will stretch out your hands and someone else will gird you, and bring you where you do not wish to go.’ Now this He said, signifying by what kind of death he would glorify God. And when He had spoken this, He said to him, ‘Follow Me!’”

Note: Christ is glorified when He is shown to be more _____ than physical comfort and life.

2 Timothy 4:6 - “For I am already being poured out as a drink offering, and the time of my departure has come.”

D. Daniel 6:19-24: Courage to consistently trust God & lovingly _____ according to the truth!

Hebrews 10:24-25 - “...let us consider how to stimulate one another to love and good deeds, not forsaking our own assembling, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another; and all the more as you see the day drawing near.”

1 Corinthians 13:1-3 - “If I speak with the tongues of men and of angels, but do not have love, I have become a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal. If I have the gift of prophecy, and know all mysteries and all knowledge; and if I have all faith, so as to remove mountains, but do not have love, I am nothing. And if I give all my possessions to feed the poor, and if I surrender my body to be burned, but do not have love, it profits me nothing.”

Galatians 2:11-14 - “But when Cephas came to Antioch, I opposed him to his face, because he stood condemned. For prior to the coming of certain men from James, he used to eat with the Gentiles; but when they came, he began to withdraw and hold himself aloof, fearing the party of the circumcision. The rest of the Jews joined him in hypocrisy, with the result that even Barnabas was carried away by their hypocrisy. But when I saw that they were not straightforward about the truth of the gospel, I said to Cephas in the presence of all, ‘If you, being a Jew, live like the Gentiles and not like the Jews, how is it that you compel the Gentiles to live like Jews?’”

Proverbs 27:6 - “Faithful are the wounds of a friend, but deceitful are the kisses of an enemy.”

Proverbs 12:1 - “Whoever loves discipline loves knowledge, but he who hates reproof is stupid.”

Proverbs 27:17 - “Iron sharpens iron, so one man sharpens another.”

E. Daniel 6:25-28: Daniel’s courage & faith have become _____!

Discussion Questions...

1. Why are cowardice and sinful compromise such serious sins in the life of a Christian? What do they keep us from doing?
2. Read: Matthew 10:28; Proverbs 1:7; Proverbs 3:25-26; Proverbs 19:23; Proverbs 29:25. What does the Bible say that we SHOULD fear? What does the Bible say that we should NOT fear? Why?
3. How/When did Jesus exemplify perfect & incredible courage?
4. Read James 2:18. How do we know that Daniel had faith and loved God and loved His Word?
5. What kinds of things do we need to remember and recall to mind when we are tempted to give in to the sins of cowardice and sinful compromise?