



## Lesson 11 – “You Believe What?”

### Standing for Truth in a Compromised World

Our lessons so far have dealt with questions of humanity, gender, and what it means that God created us the way He did. In this final lesson, we will focus not so much on what believers should think, but on how they should interact with those who think radically differently.

#### Responding to the World with Courage

\_\_\_\_\_ for \_\_\_\_\_

Peter warned his readers not to be surprised by the fiery trial that came upon them (1 Peter 4:12). Jesus told His followers that if the world rejected Him they would certainly reject His disciples (John 15:20). The Bible tells us that “all that will live godly in Christ Jesus shall suffer persecution” (2 Timothy 3:12).

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If standing for Christ will require boldness, we must pray for boldness. When faced with opposition the young church prayed for boldness (Acts 4:29-31), and although we Paul was a bold witness, he too asked for prayer that he would speak boldly (Ephesians 6:19-20).

#### Responding to the World with Compassion

**Real Compassion** \_\_\_\_\_ **the** \_\_\_\_\_

Being truly compassionate often means telling people what they don't want to hear (Proverbs 27:6; Psalm 141:5). The ultimate example of compassion is Jesus, but His compassion didn't stop Him from calling out the Pharisees for their sin (Matthew 23) or strongly rebuking His disciples when they needed it (Matthew 16:23).



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### **Real Compassion \_\_\_\_\_**

Biblical compassion flows from a recognition that God’s enemies have been taken captive by Satan (2 Timothy 2:25-26). The Bible encourages believers to take a gracious and kind stand as we live in a perverse world (Colossians 4:5-6; 2 Timothy 2:25). We can be truthful without be nasty. We can be kind without compromising.

### **Responding to the World with Wisdom**

Daniel faced the challenges of going to Babylon while trying to remain a faithful Jew committed to God, even though that meant no sacrifice, no temple, and a full Babylon education. We’ll look briefly at several key points in Daniel’s ministry for principles helpful thinking through how we can wisely live for God in a crooked world.

#### **Daniel Looked for \_\_\_\_\_ (Daniel 1)**

As soon as Daniel arrived, he was given food that he had determined he could not eat as a Jew (Daniel 1:8). He responded by kindly appealing his authority (Daniel 1:9). When Daniel received reasonable pushback, he didn’t become unreasonable (Daniel 1:10-13), but rather sought to provide a solution that made sense to his captor.

#### **Daniel \_\_\_\_\_ for Babylon (Daniel 4)**

Daniel had been kidnapped by Nebuchadnezzar (Daniel 1:1-4) but learns that God is going to punish Nebuchadnezzar for his pride (Daniel 4:19, 24-26). Daniels’ response is to lovingly plead with Nebuchadnezzar to repent that he might be spared this judgment.

#### **Daniel Took a Stand When It \_\_\_\_\_ Him (Daniel 6)**

Some might assume that Daniel was just an expert on squeaking by without causing any trouble, but the last story shows us that sometimes courage means taking an intentional stand knowing full well the consequences. Sometimes you will face a challenging situation and there will be a Daniel 1 solution – let’s talk about this and see if there is a middle road we can both agree to. Sometimes the only possible solution is a Daniel 6 solution – I can’t and won’t do that and I’m ready to face the consequences.

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