

How to Stand!

(the right way, the right time, for the right reason)

STAND—1

STAND OUT

Then the king ordered Ashpenaz, chief of his court officials, to bring into the king's service some of the Israelites from the royal family and the nobility—⁴ young men without any physical defect, handsome, showing aptitude for every kind of learning, well informed, quick to understand, and qualified to serve in the king's palace. He was to teach them the language and literature of the Babylonians.⁵ The king assigned them a daily amount of food and wine from the king's table. They were to be trained for three years, and after that they were to enter the king's service. Daniel 1:3-5

- Intentional: Think, Behave, Believe... Enemy: Think, Behave, Believe....conform to the worldly culture around us
- **Full-scale attack:** Seduces, lies, deceives.
- Media, Advertisements, Music, Racial and political RADICAL AGENDA —subtle messages. Buy, Believe. Think....
- **Can't passively be Christian in this world:** One meal, one workout, gas, 1 hour church.

Put on the full armor of God, so that you can take your stand against the devil's schemes.¹³ Therefore put on the full armor of God, so that when the day of evil comes, you may be able to stand your ground, and after you have done everything, to stand. Ephesians 6:11, 13

Among those who were chosen were some from Judah: Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael and Azariah.⁷ The chief official gave them new names: to Daniel, the name Beltshazzar; to Hananiah, Shadrach; to Mishael, Meshach; and to Azariah, Abednego. Daniel 1:6-7

- 4 boys—12-15 years or so—uprooted from family, over 1000 miles from home
- Stripped of identity. Crush any sense of dignity, especially their spiritual identity and dignity.
- Change names—all related to Yahweh/true God—Babylonian gods.
- Change diet—Eat food prepared for king—meat and wine dedicated pagan gods.

But Daniel resolved not to defile himself with the royal food and wine, and he asked the chief official for permission not to defile himself this way. Daniel 1:8

- Didn't fight when their names were taken: outward labels—knew who they were.
- Didn't defend his name—Took a stand when God's name would be defamed.
- Not eating food dedicated to pagan gods.
- Rationalized—God will understand, everyone else, not hurting anyone, have 2 eat.
- **Great picture of Jesus Ekklesia**
- Predetermined core values....If you are going to stand out for God—make some decisions ahead of time.
 1. Will always speak to and treat others with honor...
 - God, family name, spiritual family, community, Hawaii
 - Not going to minister to women alone
 - Committed to Jesus and my local church
 - No to clubs and getting drunk....Not laughing at filthy jokes or gossip. No to stupid stuffs

and conversations. No to the love of the world.

2. Will confront in love quickly with the goal of protecting relationships
3. Will search for ways to bless the community around us
4. Will never use our favor to exalt ourselves
5. Will grow our favor to create opportunities
6. Will never seek position of authority...
 - Jesus is my model
7. Will fill position of authority we are given
 - LOP conference in Jan. 2020...someone just got bumped...
8. Will always look for ways to empower the people around us.
9. Will surprise people around us with our generosity.
10. Will trust the Lord beyond reason

“Please test your servants for ten days: Give us nothing but vegetables to eat and water to drink. ¹³ Then compare our appearance with that of the young men who eat the royal food, and treat your servants in accordance with what you see.” ¹⁴ So he agreed to this and tested them for ten days. ¹⁵ At the end of the ten days they looked healthier and better nourished than any of the young men who ate the royal food. Daniel 1:12-14

- Instead of making a public protest, Daniel honors authority & creates a plan.
- It’s so easy to stand out in the wrong way, wrong time, and wrong reason!
- We need to ask God for **wisdom to stand out in the right way, at the right time, for the right reason.**

God gave them knowledge and understanding...in the worldly system or school and still make progress without violent protest.

Dan could understand visions and dreams!

The king talked with them, and he found none equal to Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael and Azariah... Daniel 1:19

- If Daniel & buddies had simply blended in—nothing historic would have happened. Or—if they had stubbornly refused to eat—likely executed. **They refused to be casual, luke warm, halfhearted, passive, part time, once a year, few minutes a day, go with the flow and blend in Christian!!!**
- Time and again—you will be lured to blend in—or you can take a stand—stand out.
- **I’d rather be remembered for standing out than forgotten for blending in.**

THINK ABOUT IT

1. What are some of the ways you’ve seen people blend into the world?
2. What do you need to overcome that will enable you to fully stand out for God?
3. What step will you take this week to stand out for God?

Optional Questions:

If needed, include one or more of these Scriptures and questions to extend your conversation.

- With your Bible or Bible App, read and discuss Daniel 1:1-21 and Ephesians 6:11-13.
- What do you think is most difficult about standing out for God and not blending in?
- What’s one way you’re being lured to blend into today’s world?
- Pastor said, “I’d rather be remembered for standing out than forgotten for blending in.” How does that statement make you feel?
- What are some examples of standing out for God in the wrong way you’ve observed?

Call to action (So what? Now what?):

- What step will you take this week to stand out for God in the right way?

If you've been a casual, luke warm, halfhearted, part time, cultural, blending in and conforming to the world than are not committed to, following and obeying Jesus. Are you ready to repent and become a committed follower of Jesus by standing out for Him in love like salt and light?

Take a stand using the resources available at <http://www.nanaikapono.org/> including a small group discussion guide for this message.