
History Makers

Part 5 - Daniel

Let's look at two 'cultural moments' tonight.

- + Daniels Cultural Moment
- + Our Cultural Moment

Our Cultural Moment

"The nones" - the religiously unaffiliated are now the fastest-growing religious group in both the USA and the UK.

"So pronounced is this trend in the UK that a two-year commission, involving leading religious leaders from all faiths, has called for public life in Britain to be 'systematically de-Christianised.' In other words, Britain is no longer a Christian country and should stop acting as if it is."

- James Emery White

Australia is also following this trend.

2006 - two-thirds of the Australian population would have classified themselves as Christians.

2011 census indicated that 22.3 % of the Australian population indicated that they weren't religious. This also accounts for the fastest growing 'religious group' in Australia.

2016 - only half of Australia would want to have any affiliation with Christ.

Many cultural commentators are framing our cultural moment through the lens of language like we are now living in “a post-Christian world” or in “post-Christian culture.”

What can *our* response be?

What can we learn from Daniel in how to engage with popular culture?

A Posture of Prayer

Daniel 6 - The Lions Den

What can *our* posture be?

We need a greater value for the unseen place with the Lord.

- + Praying - Matthew 6
- + Giving - Matthew 6
- + Fasting - Matthew 6

God rewards what is done in secret

A Posture of Faith

Daniel 2 - Interpreting the King's Dream

What can *our* posture be?

“My message and preaching were not with wise or persuasive words, but with a demonstration of the Spirit's power so that your faith would not rest on men's wisdom but on God's power.” 1 Corinthians 2:4-5

“When we rely on only persuasive words we ultimately lead people not to God but to ourselves.”

- Chris Cruz

A Posture of Surrender

Daniel 1 - Physical Sustainment

“Daniel couldn’t be influenced by the ways of one world because he was already living surrendered to the ways of another.”

What can *our* posture be?

Let’s take a deeper dive first

The paradox is this - Daniel refuses to compromise to the culture around him and instead of becoming insignificant or irrelevant he is rewarded with greater influence.

What a paradox!

In the place of captivity, God showed Himself to be faithful to a man who was faithful.

If the Church bows to culture in an attempt to remain relevant in culture we run the risk of becoming irrelevant to that very culture. Ultimately, our attempts to remain relevant may be the very things that make us irrelevant.

Again - what can *our* posture be?

Romans 12:1-2

- + Present ourselves as living sacrifices
- + Experience transformation and self-renewal

The silver lining in all of the previously mentioned stats is that of the Christians who remain, studies are indicating that they are more passionate and devout than they have ever been.

How is going our own way working?

The world doesn't need a Church that mirrors popular culture - it needs a Church that mirrors Heaven.

Let's bring ourselves to the altar again.

Posturing ourselves in prayer, in faith and in full surrender to our God.