

Assimilate Or Be Destroyed

(Daniel 1-6)

- Introduction:
1. Allow me to let you in on a secret that shouldn't be a secret – “We're at war!”
 2. (Ephesians 6:10-18; 2 Timothy 2:3; 1 Timothy 6:12; 2 Corinthians 10:3-5).
 3. There are at least two ways to win a war; destroy the enemy or assimilate the enemy.
 4. Since the beginning of time, God's people have been at war with culture.
 - a. While there have been times and places in history when the world sought to destroy the children of God, maybe the world's greatest victories have been won through assimilation.
 5. I would like to examine how the world attempts to assimilate us.

I. The World Tries To Educate Us

- A. (Daniel 1:1-4).
- B. In other words, it became the aim of the Babylonians to re-educate these children of God; to teach them a new language and a new way of life.
- C. They immersed these Hebrew youth in a pagan, idolatrous culture.
- D. Is that not the way the world operates today? Is that not how the children of God assimilated and become worldly?
 1. In school we're taught evolution.
 2. The music is frequently godless
 - a. “Let me write the songs of a nation, and I care not who makes its laws” – Andrew Fletcher, Scottish writer (1653-1716).
 3. Morality (Dress, speech, substance abuse, marriage, sexuality, etc.).
 4. Tolerance.
 - a. “It doesn't matter what you think, just think.”

II. The World Tries To Dedicate Us

- A. (Daniel 3:1-7).
- B. Think of all the things the world offers us, encourages dedications and devotion to, that rival our loyalties to God.
- C. Materialism, sports, government, etc.
- D. Don't accept any substitute for God (Matthew 6:33).

III. The World Tries To Implicate Us

- A. (Daniel 6:1-11).
- B. If we were charged with being a sold out, disciple of Jesus, would there be enough evidence to convict us?
- C. Can the world ever cause us to suspend our devotion to God?

- Conclusion:
1. Daniel overcame Babylon's attempt to assimilate and destroy him because he purposed in his heart (Daniel 1:8).
 2. If we are to overcome the culture in which we live, we too must purpose in our hearts that we will not defile ourselves.