



Kill the Chameleon | Doug Wekenman | 8.8.21  
Weekly Study

START

To get things started, go around the circle and answer the following question:

**What TV show are you currently watching?**

SHARE

Welcome back to Group! This week, Doug preached a sermon called “Kill the Chameleon.” Using the Book of Daniel, he talked about resisting the urge to fit into cultural norms. The importance of staying on the narrow road instead of veering off to the broad gate for the sake of man’s approval over God’s. Before we dive into the sermon, take some time to check in with your Group by answering these questions.

**What’s one word that would describe how you are currently feeling?**

**What is one thing you feel like God is teaching you right now?**

**What was the most challenging part of your week?**

**What was the highlight of your week?**

## G R O W

### **Read Daniel 1:1-10**

**How does Daniel's request to the chief official resonate with what Doug was preaching on Sunday?**

**How can we be encouraged by Daniel's act of faith?**

The Hebraic name for Daniel is "God is my judge". Daniel was one of several Israelites called by King Nebuchadnezzar to come under training only to be indoctrinated, or brainwashed, into his customs. The king would wine and dine these men with earthly royalty to sway them into abandoning their Jewish custom and traditions and ultimately worship him. However, Daniel - living up to the Hebraic meaning of his name, made a fascinating request in the midst of comfort and flattery. Daniel requested to the chief official that he not indulge in the luxurious food and wine, in order that he not defile himself. Daniel chose to remain faithful to God - Yahweh by sticking to the traditions that maybe weren't as glamorous as what the king was offering.

Much like Daniel's situation, as Christians today - we too have a choice whether we remain faithful to Jesus or give into what the world is selling us. We can make the decision of who or what will be disciplining us every day: Jesus or culture. Are we peacefully pleasing God or striving to please man? Are we looking for validation in man's approval or remaining confident in God's already approval?

The response from the chief official shows that when we care more about the opinions of man, we become slaves to fear. However, when we rest on our identity in Jesus, we then have the ability to set others free.

**What is one area in your life that you can cease striving for man's approval and rest on God's approval?**

## M O V E

### **Daniel 1:11-21**

Which verse in this passage resonates the most with Doug's message from Sunday?

From this first chapter, what words would you use to describe Daniel?

Integrity is one of the most important qualities a person can have. But don't fall for the trap of thinking integrity means perfection. As Doug reminded us this week, "if integrity meant perfection, Jesus would be the only one who has it." In order to have integrity, you don't have to always be in the right; you just have to be real.

Daniel was in Babylon for 70 years. And every single day, he dropped to his knees three different times, by his window that faced Jerusalem, and he prayed and worshipped. He fixed his focus onto the one whose integrity will never fail, God.

While God did not promise us a life free from troubles, He did promise us His presence through it all. When you trust God with all your heart, you will be at peace and know that God has plans that sometimes you may not understand, but that will ultimately be good for you.

It is so easy to be persuaded into thinking your plan will work over God's Plan. Our current culture today tells us that we can only trust ourselves to have a successful life. How do you not conform to this world and live for God? By trusting His plan and seeking Him with your whole heart.

**Would you consider yourself a person of integrity? Would those closest to you call you a person of integrity? Why or why not?**

**What is one practical step you can take this week to live with integrity?**

## P R A Y

We need prayer now more than ever. Spend some time-sharing prayer requests. If you are in a coed group, consider breaking off into two separate groups (or calls if you are an online group) to share more freely.

## T O G O

*“For I know the plans I have for you,” declares the Lord, “plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.” - Jeremiah 29:11*