

Resolve vs. Permission

HEATHER GEMMEN WILSON | OCTOBER 31, 2017

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. (Dan. 1:8)

FALL IS THE TIME for electioneering, and I have to be honest with you: I can't stand it! I've long since quit watching television (except when my beloved Indianapolis Colts play) because of the incessantly negative political ads. I'm about to sign off from social media for the same reason. Who made the rule that being right gives you permission to be rude?

This is one of the things I love about Daniel and his companions: They were simultaneously right and polite, both personally resolved and appropriately submissive to legitimate authority. They had made up their minds to do God's will—no matter what. Rather than start a social media campaign to trash talk the king (or whatever the equivalent might have been in their day), they first asked permission to break the offending rule. They were prepared to defy the order if necessary, but they were willing to go through proper channels first.

We live in a time when, like Daniel, we must break from the prevailing culture in order to walk in step with God. It's tempting to take our desire for righteousness as a license to denounce, defy, or vilify those who disagree. Paul wrote, "If it is possible, as far as it depends on you, live at peace with everyone" (Rom. 12:18). Being right is no reason to be offensive. Let's be resolved and respectful.

Resolve to speak positive words today.

November 5, 2017

FOCUS Wesleyan Church

"Conversations with God" ~

"Four Chairs"

Sermon Notes:

Matthew 22:34-40

Revelation 2:2-5

Revelation 3:15-16

Luke 15:1-7

Luke 15:8-10

Matthew 7:21-23

Reflection: What is one new thing you believe God spoke to you today as a result of worshipping at FOCUS?

The Word of God directs us as we consider what the **next step** is for our lives. What is your next step? Which chair are you currently sitting in? Be honest before God and with yourself. Have you become casual with God? If you are in chair #1, what areas is God currently growing you in? What will you do this week to apply this truth to your daily life?

Challenge: This week I will pray for following local church(s):

Communion at FOCUS

Every Sunday at FOCUS we celebrate the Lord's Table, also known as Communion. We have open communion which means all are invited to receive. We receive communion elements by intinction. Tearing off a small piece of the loaf of bread, dipping it in the communion glass of juice, and then consuming it immediately. Please note, upon your request, we also have gluten free elements for those with gluten and other major food allergies.

Wednesday Night Meal

We will be hosting a free meal from 5:30-6:30 PM each Wednesday night at FOCUS. Please join us for some food and fellowship! Bring the family and invite others to join you for a meal.

District MEN'S RETREAT

Nov. 9-11 \$75

kytnwesleyan.com

Cumberland Grove Retreat Center,
Jamestown, TN

Youth Group tonight! - 6:30 - 8 PM!

Friends welcome, snacks provided!



FOCUS

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WELCOME TO WORSHIP

THANK YOU FOR
COMING TODAY

