

## HOW TO STAND UP TO PEER PRESSURE

**Text: Daniel 1:8**

**Introduction:** Story of Daniel

- He was born and reared in Israel, where it was easy to serve the Lord.
  - Now he was in a heathen land, and his faith would be put to the test.
1. **Don't worry about popularity. (v.3-5)**
    - Daniel knows he is going to stand before the king and will be promoted if he will compromise.
    - Daniel cared more about please God than pleasing man.
    - Proverbs 29:25 says, "*The fear of man bringeth a snare: but whoso putteth his trust in the Lord shall be safe.*"
  2. **Have the right kind of friends. (v.6)**
    - May mean you won't have a lot of friends, but at least you will have friends that will stand with you.
    - When I was a senior in high school, I had really only one friend—my brother.
    - Example: Walking out of the high school band.
  3. **Be a leader. (v.7)**
    - Belteshazzar = the king's leader
    - It is easy to be a follower.
    - It is hard to be a leader.
    - Leaders don't worry about what everyone else is doing; they lead the way.
    - You will be surprised at those around you who may be looking for someone else to lead; instead of follow.
  4. **Purpose in your heart to do right. (v.8)**
    - No matter who did it, no matter the consequences, Daniel was not going to defile himself.
    - Reason for not eating:
      - Didn't want to violate the law of meats.
      - Didn't want to partake of something sacrificed to idols.
      - Didn't want to start loving the world.
        - Pr 23:3 *Be not desirous of his dainties: for they are deceitful meat.*
      - Wanted to stay away from all temptation to be gluttons and to drink.

**Colusion:** God blessed them, exalted them, and made them 10 times better than everyone else. (v.17-20)

- Anyone can give into peer pressure; it takes a man, a leader to stand up to it, to lead the way, to do what is right.