



LIVING FOR THE FOURTH MAN

CONVICTION OR PREFERENCE? DANIEL 3:28

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All Scriptures are printed verbatim with translations noted.

Pastor Joe's email is Joe@southreno.com. This passage can be found in the Pew Bible, in the Old Testament on pages 631.

KEY SCRIPTURES

Daniel 1:8, NLT -⁸ *But Daniel was determined not to defile himself by eating the food and wine given to them by the king. He asked the chief of staff for permission not to eat these unacceptable foods.*

Daniel 3:17–18, NLT -¹⁷ *If we are thrown into the blazing furnace, the God whom we serve is able to save us. He will rescue us from your power, Your Majesty. ¹⁸ But even if he does not, we want to make it clear to you, Your Majesty, that we will never serve your gods or worship the gold statue you have set up.*

Daniel 3:28, NLT -²⁸ *Then Nebuchadnezzar said, "Praise to the God of Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego! He sent his angel to rescue his servants who trusted in Him. They defied the king's command and were willing to die rather than serve or worship any god except their own God.*

- Christ was with them—He is *The Fourth Man*.
- Conviction guided them.
- Compromise was not an option for them.

LIFE APPLICATION SECTION

CONVICTION OR PREFERENCE?

Preference is oriented toward *convenience*.

Conviction is oriented toward *sacrifice*.

Preference is something *you hold*.

Conviction is something that *holds you*.

A. How will you live your life?

God is not looking for influential men and women that He can make faithful. He is looking for faithful men and women that He can make influential.

There is always more to lose by compromising than there is to gain.

You need to live by convictions—not preferences.

Moral Purity

Matthew 23:25, TLB -²⁵ *"Woe to you, Pharisees, and you religious leaders—hypocrites! You are so careful to polish the outside of the cup, but the inside is foul with extortion and greed.*

Physical Purity

1 Thessalonians 4:3–5, TLB -³ *For God wants you to be holy and pure and to keep clear of all sexual sin so that each of you will marry in holiness and honor—⁵ not in lustful passion as the heathen do, in their ignorance of God and his ways.*

Ethical Purity

Romans 12:2, TLB -² *Don't copy the behavior and customs of this world, but be a new and different person with a fresh newness in all you do and think. Then you will learn from your own experience how His ways will really satisfy you.*

Spiritual Purity

Philippians 2:10–11, NASB95 -¹⁰ *so that at the name of Jesus EVERY KNEE WILL BOW, of those who are in heaven and on earth and under the earth, ¹¹ and that every tongue will confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.*

Live above corruption • Live in security • Leave a lasting legacy

B. Christ is with you—He is the fourth Man.

Daniel 3:28, JBP - *He sent His Son to rescue His faithful servants who so trusted in Him. They were willing to die rather than serve or worship any other god except their God. For their God is the One True God...*