



CAPITOL COMMISSION™

LEADERSHIP QUALITIES OF DANIEL

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Our 2nd regular session of the 120th South Carolina General Assembly has arrived. To withstand the on-slog of decisions and propositions placed before you a legislator must understand several precepts in making good decisions. In Daniel we glean several necessary components to govern well.

In the first chapter of Daniel, seven character traits are described as well as four rewards which were granted to Daniel because of his faithfulness. We can learn by studying the character qualities of Daniel in relationship to his walk of obedience in our daily life to Christ.

Daniel 1:1–2 tells us of the captivity of the children of Israel by Nebuchadnezzar, king of Babylon (586 BC), prophesied by Isaiah (Isaiah 39:3–7). Biblical history teach us that over 18,000 people were carried away captive to Babylon. (See 2 Kings 24:14–16.) Of these 18,000, God chose four as His special messengers to this lost nation of Babylon.¹

1. DANIEL WAS CHOSEN

The first character trait, in Daniel 1:3–7, is that he was chosen. These four young men were chosen because there was something different about their lives and character. It will be the same with the people of God in this present age as they live in this present age. There are chosen people whom God appointed to be His representatives on earth. God chose Abraham, the Prophets, the Priests, the Israelites, the Angelic messengers of Revelation 14 and many others to accomplish specific purposes.

The cost of faithful obedience is extremely high. The rewards of obedience pay eternal dividends. Just as Daniel chose to follow God, regardless of the cost, so we must make that decision since we are among the chosen of God.

Daniel 1:4 "Youths in whom was no defect, who were good-looking, showing intelligence in every branch of wisdom, endowed with understanding and discerning knowledge, and who had ability for serving in the king's court; and he ordered him to teach them the literature and language of the Chaldeans."

You as a South Carolina Elect Official are chosen of God to minister as His deacon in government affairs. God chose and appointed you by providentially moving in the hearts of your constituency to vote for you, thus He chose you according to Daniel 2:21

Daniel 2:21 "It is He who changes the times and the epochs; He removes kings and establishes kings; He gives wisdom to wise men and knowledge to men of understanding."

Romans 13:1b; 4a "For there is no authority except from God, and those which exist are established by God.... for it is a minister of God to you for good."

2. DANIEL HAD CONVICTION

The second character trait is conviction. Conviction is the confident certainty that moves moral character to act.

CONVICTION IS A FIRMLY HELD BELIEF WHICH IMPLIES A DEEPER MANIFESTATION OF THE INWARD ASSURANCE. PEOPLE OF FAITH ARE PREPARED TO LIVE OUT THEIR BELIEF. IF YOU BELIEVE TRUTH, YOUR BEHAVIOR SHOULD MANIFEST YOUR BELIEF. IN OTHER WORDS, OUR LIVES SHOULD REFLECT A COMMITMENT TO WHAT OUR MINDS AND HEARTS ARE ASSURED IS TRUE. WE SHOULD BE SO SURE OF GOD'S PROMISES AND BLESSINGS WHICH ARE FUTURE THAT WE BEHAVE AS IF THOSE PROMISES WERE ALREADY REALIZED (See [Heb 11:7](#), [8](#), [9](#), [10](#), [11](#), [12](#), [13](#); Cf. [Ro 4:17](#), [18](#), [19](#), [20](#), [21](#)).²

Hebrews 11:1 Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen.

ARISTOTLE WROTE THAT "CONVICTION" (*elegchos*) IS THE PROOF THAT A THING CANNOT BE OTHERWISE THAN WE SAY.

BIBLE STUDIES

LEGISLATORS: WEDNESDAY AT 8:30AM, BLATT BUILDING ROOM 317

STAFF: MONDAYS AT 12:00 NOON, BLATT BUILDING ROOM 317

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Daniel 1:8 "he purposed in his heart the he would not defile himself with the portion of the king's meat, nor with the wine which he drank."

As a child, Daniel had been raised to know God's required laws and in this foreign land he had an opportunity to eat and drink of the choices food and drink from the kings menu. So the offer of the King to eat of his meat and wine was a test of Daniel's personal convictions in the areas of diet and obedience to God's claims in all areas of his life. God set these requirements for His chosen, set-apart people. This is His distinctiveness required of His chosen elect.

God today requires of His people to be a distinct and set apart people.

Ephesians 5:1 "Therefore be imitators of God, as beloved children."

1 Peter 1:15-16 "But like the Holy One who called you, be holy yourselves also in all your behavior;¹⁶ because it is written, "YOU SHALL BE HOLY, FOR I AM HOLY."

Daniel was 15-16-17 years of age. He purposed at this young age that he would NOT defile himself. I have children about this age and the question I ask myself is "do they have the fortitude to live lives by the convictions and principles of God and His statutes?"

Daniels conviction of the heart became the commitment of his life. Inner conviction always results in outward commitment and obedience.

3. DANIEL DEMONSTRATED COMMITMENT

Daniel was committed first and foremost to God and His precepts on his life. Before he took any public stand in regard to his diet, he determined in his own heart that what he had been taught had been truth and he was convicted of his

need to remain faithful to God in this area. Inner convictions results in outer manifestations.

Proverbs 23:7a & Luke 6:45 "For as he thinks within himself, so he is (as a man thinks in his heart so is he). Remember, "out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaks."

When Daniel requested that he might not defile himself with the kings diet, the prince of the eunuchs was fearful that the young men would look worse than those who had the privilege of eating the King's food.

So, what would become of Daniel's request to the prince of the eunuchs? Why would the prince of the eunuchs even consider Daniel's request if it might cost him his life? Part of the reason the prince considered is because Daniel was courtesy.

¹adapted from http://www.stepstolife.org/php/view_article.php?article_id=1546
² http://preceptaustin.org/hebrews_111-2.htm