

Consecration

1. A Separation to the Purposes, Plans, and Person of God

2. A Separation Motivated by Our Affections

3. A Love and Loyalty that Flows from Deep Within the Heart

¹King Nebuchadnezzar made an image of gold, sixty cubits high and six cubits wide, and set it up on the plain of Dura in the province of Babylon.

²He then summoned the satraps, prefects, governors, advisers, treasurers, judges, magistrates and all the other provincial officials to come to the dedication of the image he had set up.

Daniel 3:1-30 (NIV)

³So the satraps, prefects, governors, advisers, treasurers, judges, magistrates and all the other provincial officials assembled for the dedication of the image that King Nebuchadnezzar had set up, and they stood before it. ⁴Then the herald loudly proclaimed, “Nations and peoples of every language, this is what you are commanded to do: Daniel 3:1-30 (NIV)

⁵As soon as you hear the sound of the horn, flute, zither, lyre, harp, pipe and all kinds of music, you must fall down and worship the image of gold that King Nebuchadnezzar has set up. ⁶Whoever does not fall down and worship will immediately be thrown into a blazing furnace.”

Daniel 3:1-30 (NIV)

7 Therefore, as soon as they heard the sound of the horn, flute, zither, lyre, harp and all kinds of music, all the nations and peoples of every language fell down and worshiped the image of gold that King Nebuchadnezzar had set up. 8 At this time some astrologers came forward and denounced the Jews.

Daniel 3:1-30 (NIV)

9 They said to King Nebuchadnezzar, “May the king live forever! 10 Your Majesty has issued a decree that everyone who hears the sound of the horn, flute, zither, lyre, harp, pipe and all kinds of music must fall down and worship the image of gold, 11 and that whoever does not fall down and worship will be thrown into a blazing furnace.

Daniel 3:1-30 (NIV)

¹²But there are some Jews whom you have set over the affairs of the province of Babylon—Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego—who pay no attention to you, Your Majesty. They neither serve your gods nor worship the image of gold you have set up.”¹³Furious with rage, Nebuchadnezzar summoned Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego.
Daniel 3:1-30 (NIV)

So these men were brought before the king,
¹⁴and Nebuchadnezzar said to them, “Is it true,
Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego, that you do
not serve my gods or worship the image of gold
I have set up? ¹⁵Now when you hear the sound of
the horn, flute, zither, lyre, harp, pipe and all kinds
of music, if you are ready to fall down and
worship the image I made, very good.

Daniel 3:1-30 (NIV)

But if you do not worship it, you will be thrown immediately into a blazing furnace. Then what god will be able to rescue you from my hand?"
¹⁶ Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego replied to him, "King Nebuchadnezzar, we do not need to defend ourselves before you in this matter.
Daniel 3:1-30 (NIV)

¹⁷If we are thrown into the blazing furnace, the God we serve is able to deliver us from it, and he will deliver us from Your Majesty's hand. ¹⁸But even if he does not, we want you to know, Your Majesty, that we will not serve your gods or worship the image of gold you have set up.”
Daniel 3:1-30 (NIV)

¹⁹ Then Nebuchadnezzar was furious with Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego, and his attitude toward them changed. He ordered the furnace heated seven times hotter than usual
²⁰ and commanded some of the strongest soldiers in his army to tie up Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego and throw them into the blazing furnace.

Daniel 3:1-30 (NIV)

²¹ So these men, wearing their robes, trousers, turbans and other clothes, were bound and thrown into the blazing furnace. ²² The king's command was so urgent and the furnace so hot that the flames of the fire killed the soldiers who took up Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego, Daniel 3:1-30 (NIV)

²³and these three men, firmly tied, fell into the blazing furnace. ²⁴Then King Nebuchadnezzar leaped to his feet in amazement and asked his advisers, “Weren’t there three men that we tied up and threw into the fire?” They replied, “Certainly, Your Majesty.”
Daniel 3:1-30 (NIV)

²⁵He said, “Look! I see four men walking around in the fire, unbound and unharmed, and the fourth looks like a son of the gods.” ²⁶Nebuchadnezzar then approached the opening of the blazing furnace and shouted, “Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego, servants of the Most High God, come out! Come here!”

Daniel 3:1-30 (NIV)

So Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego came out of the fire, ²⁷ and the satraps, prefects, governors and royal advisers crowded around them. They saw that the fire had not harmed their bodies, nor was a hair of their heads singed; their robes were not scorched, and there was no smell of fire on them.

Daniel 3:1-30 (NIV)

²⁸ Then Nebuchadnezzar said, “Praise be to the God of Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego, who has sent his angel and rescued his servants! They trusted in him and defied the king’s command and were willing to give up their lives rather than serve or worship any god except their own God.

Daniel 3:1-30 (NIV)

²⁹Therefore I decree that the people of any nation or language who say anything against the God of Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego be cut into pieces and their houses be turned into piles of rubble, for no other god can save in this way.”

³⁰Then the king promoted Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego in the province of Babylon.

Daniel 3:1-30 (NIV)

CONSECRATION GROWS
OUR CONVICTION



Consecration Incites Persecution

King Nebuchadnezzar made an image of gold, sixty cubits high and six cubits wide, and set it up on the plain of Dura in the province of Babylon..
Whoever does not fall down and worship will immediately be thrown into a blazing furnace.

Daniel 3:1, 6 (NIV)

Consecration Incites Persecution

Look, I am sending you out as sheep among wolves. So be as shrewd as snakes and harmless as doves. But beware! ...Since I, the master of the household, have been called the prince of demons, the members of my household will be called by even worse names!

Matthew 10:16-17, 25 (NLT)



EACH MONTH

322 CHRISTIANS ARE
KILLED FOR THEIR FAITH



Learn more about the persecution of Christians worldwide, and what you can do to help.

214 CHURCHES AND
CHRISTIAN **PROPERTIES**
ARE DESTROYED



772 FORMS OF **VIOLENCE**
ARE COMMITTED AGAINST
CHRISTIANS *(SUCH AS BEATINGS, ABDUCTIONS,
RAPES, ARRESTS AND FORCED MARRIAGES)*



Open Doors Organization, www.opendoorsusa.org

Consecration Incites Persecution

Senate Bill 1146 will require religious colleges and universities to adopt policies of non-discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation in order for students to receive state-funded scholarships under the Cal Grant program...

Consecration Incites Persecution

Secondly, SB 1146 will require these institutions to give notice if they have requested an exemption to Title IX. **Thirdly**, SB 1146 will permit lawsuits against institutions that are perceived to discriminate on the basis of sexual orientation regardless of whether they accept the Cal-Grant scholarships.

Consecration Incites Persecution

The Steps to Persecution:

1. Caricaturization
2. Marginalization
3. Discrimination
4. Persecution

Consecration Leads to Radical Conviction

Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego replied to him, "King Nebuchadnezzar, we do not need to defend ourselves before you in this matter... But even if he does not, we want you to know, Your Majesty, that we will not serve your gods or worship the image of gold you have set up."

Daniel 3:16, 18 (NIV)

Consecration Leads to Radical Conviction

Conviction:

- A Clarity and Commitment to God's Will and What Really Matters

Radical Conviction:

- Having Clarity About Who You Really Answer to
- A Commitment that is Not Based on Outcome, but Rather on Love and Loyalty

Consecration Incites God's Loyalty

Then King Nebuchadnezzar leaped to his feet in amazement and asked his advisers, "Weren't there three men that we tied up and threw into the fire?" They replied, "Certainly, Your Majesty." He said, "Look! I see four men walking around in the fire, unbound and unharmed, and the fourth looks like a son of the gods."

Daniel 3:24-25 (NIV)