

The **Call** of God
The **Response**
of the Faithful

November 23, 2008
Daniel 1:1-17
The Call to Eat Your Vegetables

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.

Daniel 1:8

Daniel is a model for us of how to live in relationship to our culture.

1. He didn't choose to be in a foreign culture.
2. Both he and the other culture benefit by his being integrated with them.
3. He didn't live in fear of them.
4. He chose to take a stand when the values of the culture tested his primary allegiance to God, however, he did not impose his values on them.

Share your story

What are some traditional holiday foods in your family? Are there some you you'd rather be "set apart" from?

Read Daniel 1:1-17

What questions come up as you read these verses? What catches your attention in a special way?

Read different versions of verse 8.

What words are used for the verbs in this verse? How do these describe Daniel's attitude toward God and his approach to the situation?

Apply It

In what ways do you see Christians imposing our values on our culture? Where do you see good examples of Christians choosing to take a stand with humility?

In what ways is God calling you to eat your vegetables instead of our cultures rich diet? In other words . . .

How is God calling you to be set apart? How do you demonstrate your allegiance to God by living his values instead of the cultures?

Where or in what way is it most challenging for you to be set apart? What ethical/moral dilemmas do you face most frequently?

Does the fact that you benefit from our culture make it more difficult to know when and how to be set apart from it?

What are the humble actions you choose to demonstrate your allegiance to God?

What happens when you eat your vegetables and God doesn't seem to bless you for it?

What are the circumstances of your life that you haven't chosen? What values are you holding onto in the mist of these circumstances?

John shared the story of Will D. Campbell, as southern pastor who marched with Martin Luther King, Jr. and chose to leave his church to minister in a place where there were several KKK members – those opposing his values.

Where might be you be called to walk alongside those who will test how you live out your primary allegiance to God?

What do receive by coming together with other Christians on Sundays (and other days) that is life giving and healthy? How does this health cause you to live differently in our culture? Do the people around you see the healthy benefits?

Pray Together!