

Pastor's Weekly Devotional- July 9, 2015

"The Pressure to Conform"

Western culture today is rapidly aligning with the idea that God's mercy has completely eclipsed His justice. Some live as though there are no consequences for sinful actions. Inconvenient passages of the Bible are explained as irrelevant and "just cultural" since they do not meet the standard of interpretation.

The pressure to conform is not new. In Daniel 3, Nebuchadnezzar, king of Babylon, made an image and commanded everyone to bow to it. It was the law of the land. But three boys refused to do so because God's law taught that "there is no other god besides Jehovah" and no one should "bow down to a graven image."

It took courage for these men to remain standing. It meant ridicule, criticism and death. They refused to follow the path of relativity, where the Bible means whatever one may think it means. They understood that their opinions cannot change, alter or annual God's Word. They knew that God was sovereign whether the result of their obedience was triumph or tragedy.

In the New Testament, the apostles were forbidden to preach "in the name of Jesus." They decided to obey God than Man. Similarly, there may be times in your life when "the heat is on" and you are pressured to conform against the Word of God. But God's "Word is settled in heaven forever." (Psalm 119:89) Stand on His Word. Trust His sovereignty. You will never lose if you choose to serve God and obey His Word fully.

Have a blessed week! I will be continuing preaching on Psalm 23.

Pastor Sewdin