

## **GRACIOUS RESISTANCE Pt 1**

### **“Resisting Conformity”**

*He [God] has been calling out from the world a people for himself, and sending his people back into the world to be his servants and his witnesses, for the extension of his kingdom, the building up of Christ's body, and the glory of his name. We confess with shame that we have often denied our calling and failed in our mission, by becoming conformed to the world or by withdrawing from it. -Lausanne Covenant*

### **OUR OPTIONS**

- To Conform
- To Withdraw

As those who are Sent — —> Requires Gracious Resistance

### **Romans 12:1-2 NIV**

Therefore, I urge you, brothers and sisters, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God—this is your true and proper worship. 2 Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will.

### **REORIENTING OUR VIEW (See Isaiah 11:1-10)**

- The Final Justice that comes from the Healing Justice of God's kingdom.
- The expression & result of His rule invading into the world He's created & longs to redeem.

“What brings warring parties of the world together is not the emergence of a new philosophy of government; it is not free market capitalism, communism, socialism, or democracy. It is a person: the root of Jesse.... The Bible calls on us to develop a theological imagination within which we can see the world as a community and not a collection of hostilities. It does so by giving us the vision of a person who can heal our wounds and dismantle our hostilities.” (Esau McCaulley).

### **Daniel 1:1-8 NIV**

In the third year of the reign of Jehoiakim king of Judah, Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon came to Jerusalem and besieged it. 2 And the Lord delivered Jehoiakim king of Judah into his hand, along with some of the articles from the temple of God. These he carried off to the temple of his god in Babylonia and put in the treasure house of his god.

3 Then the king ordered Ashpenaz, chief of his court officials, to bring into the king's service some of the Israelites from the royal family and the nobility—4 young men without any physical defect, handsome, showing aptitude for every kind of learning, well informed, quick to understand, and qualified to serve in the king's palace. He was to teach them the language and literature of the Babylonians. 5 The king assigned them a daily amount of food and wine from the king's table. They were to be trained for three years, and after that they were to enter the king's service.

6 Among those who were chosen were some from Judah: Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael and Azariah. 7 The chief official gave them new names: to Daniel, the name Belteshazzar; to Hananiah, Shadrach; to Mishael, Meshach; and to Azariah, Abednego.

8 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.

## **ASSUMPTION**

We have long assumed that we lived in God's kingdom by the fact that we live in America.

## **THE WATER**

We have swapped our Image Bearing Vocation for Brand Management.

Character — —> Content

Identity — — —> Brand

Instead of working to create and contribute, offering ourselves, we live in such a way where our lives are manufactured and curated for others to consume.

"To reduce ourselves to brands, however, is to do violence to our personhood. We turn ourselves into products, content to be evaluated instead of people to be truly known and loved.... We convert the stuff of our lives into currency... This new way of interacting is driving institutional dysfunction, personal anxiety, and the hollowing out of ourselves."

(Tish Harrison Warren)

## **Daniel 1:9-10, 17-20 NIV**

9 Now God had caused the official to show favor and compassion to Daniel, 10 but the official told Daniel, "I am afraid of my lord the king, who has assigned your food and drink. Why should he see you looking worse than the other young men your age? The king would then have my head because of you."

17 To these four young men God gave knowledge and understanding of all kinds of literature and learning. And Daniel could understand visions and dreams of all kinds.

18 At the end of the time set by the king to bring them into his service, the chief official presented them to Nebuchadnezzar. 19 The king talked with them, and he found none equal to Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael and Azariah; so they entered the king's service. 20 In every matter of wisdom and understanding about which the king questioned them, he found them ten times better than all the magicians and enchanters in his whole kingdom.

## **RESISTANCE REQUIRES**

- Personal Devotion
- Trusted Others