

Faith Under Fire

Daniel and the Lions Den – Daniel 6

A. When Groups Become Dysfunctional – Daniel 6:1-5

Why did the other leaders want to get rid of Daniel?

Groupthink - When a team is operating in groupthink mode, it'll shut down debate or alternative viewpoints. It'll be committed to a certain point of view and will dismiss warning signs or contradictory data.

Groupthink can lead to thinking "Wrong"

Groupthink can dictate Politics, Businesses, Churches, Any type of group you align yourself with.

How do you identify dysfunctional groups?

What are symptoms of Groupthink?

- Being Invulnerability

When groupthink takes hold, you think normal rules don't apply.

- Collective Rationalization -Because your group is invulnerable, any facts or data indicating that you've made a mistake must be wrong.
- Belief in their own Rightness -That sense of rightness helps them to justify doing things like bending the rules or acting unethically. Essentially, they believe that the end justifies the means.
- Demonizing the Opposition - Us vs Them mentality

What is the problem when Popular opinion determines our morality?

Their desired result justified their plot against Daniel.

B. The Problem When Government Attempts to Control Religion – Daniel 6:6-9

Why did Darius agree to this new law when it only for one month?

- It appealed to the vanity of the king
- It made people loyal while decentralizing power.
- The purpose was to make him the representative of a deity but not a deity in and of itself.

Religion controlled by Government will always lead to Abuse.

King Darius was unable to rescue Daniel, even though he was King due to his approval of the new law to govern worship.

C. When Expression of Faith Creates Conflict with Government – Daniel 6:10-15

Confusion between free expression of faith and state-controlled religion.

- School prayer vs students praying at school
- Manger scene on Public Squares vs. Christians displaying Manger Scene
- Public expression of Faith vs. forcing all Faith to be Private
- Government influencing or dictating how to practice faith vs. faith influencing Government

Putting our lives at risk will change the world. Our attempt to control others through power, will silence our witness.

Daniel put his Life at risk to worship God.

D. Let God be Your Rescue – Daniel 6:16-28

Key Verse 16 "... May your God, whom you serve so faithfully, rescue you."

Where do people in our world place their trust? Who do they think will rescue them?

- Their Alliance (Conservative vs. Liberal, Republican vs Democrat, Capitalist vs. Socialist)
- Their Government
- Their Leaders
- Their community

Daniel placed his trust in the living God.

