

Resisting Cultural Norms
Welcome to Harvest Community Church
Series 10X²
Text: Daniel 1:17-20

~ Tim Tebow – “Christianity is not average to a little better. It’s dead to alive. It’s old to new. It’s lost to found.”

Our culture has a fascination and infatuation with **celebrity**, our own egos and a drive for success. Too many Christians are busy trying to make a name for themselves that they are no longer lifting up the name of Jesus. **John 12:32, Philippians 2:9-11, Ephesians 3:20-21, Romans 11:36, Revelation 4:11, Psalm 145:3**

~ We don’t need more Christian celebrities – We need more humble servants. Let’s put the spotlight back where it belongs: on the one who deserves all the Glory.

While everyone around Daniel was clamoring for power, position and possessions, he found a way to **deflect** praise away from himself and on to God. Those who are 10X live a life that honors God over themselves.

There are five ways that Daniel demonstrated that he was 10X

- 1) Daniel’s **humility** was greater than his giftings. Daniel’s culture is no different than ours today. People are naturally prideful. Humility is a position that everyone must **intentionally** take. **1 Peter 5:6** You never become accidentally humble. We must humble ourselves.

Daniel was the entire package, physically, spiritually and intellectually. The Bible tells us that Daniel was handsome, smart, educated and quick to learn and understand.

Daniel 1:4 (NKJV & NLT) God blessed Daniel with **unusual** wisdom and he was found to be ten times (10X) better than his peers. **Daniel 1:20** Daniel never allowed pride, success, favor and extraordinary giftedness to smother his humility.

Daniel refused to make things about **himself**. 10X Christians have settled this. The failure of humility is actually a trait of Satan. Pride makes everything about **me**, about I.

Ezekiel 28:12-17, Isaiah 14:12-15

You can never be 10X when you are tooting your own horn and clamoring for position. Daniel was aware of his giftings, talents and abilities yet purposefully humbled himself before God. Even when **promoted**, Daniel honored God. **Daniel 2:19-23, 27-30**

- 2) Daniel's prayer life focused on others. When Daniel saw that the other wise men could not answer the king's questions and that they were ordered to be killed, he organized a prayer meeting with his friends. **Daniel 2:18**

While Daniel did not want to die, he did not want others to suffer either.

Daniel interceded and stood in the gap for magicians, enchanters, sorcerers and astrologers that not only rejected God but who were actively involved in witchcraft.

Daniel 2:2 (NLT) This is counter cultural. Daniel pleaded for their lives with God. Those who are 10X not only do not promote themselves, they lift up others for the cause of Christ.

- 3) Daniel resisted his culture's fascination with celebrity. Everyone wants to know that they matter and that they are making a difference. This is a common desire. Today people are famous just for being famous.

Those with a fascination with celebrity desire to be admired and feared by others rather than God. Daniel redirected the focus off of himself and onto God. **Daniel 2:28 (NLT)**, **Matthew 20:25 (NLT)** Those who are 10X realize that any advantage that they have is a position of service. Celebrity reveals us to other people. Service reveals to others what God desires to reveal to them. **Daniel 2:30 (AMP)**

Today our churches have employed means that highlight people on the stage instead of the God of heaven. We use cameras, lighting, expensive wardrobes, and slick media accounts all in the name of attracting people to our show instead of to the one we desire them to know. Those who are 10X never lose sight of what and Who really matters.

- 4) Daniel redefined the reasons for his success. When others complimented Daniel for his success, it was important to him that they see God's desire to bless them. "This was revealed to me so that Your Majesty may understand what went through your mind."

Daniel wanted others to see any success he had as God's desire to help them. All too often we are willing to accept the praise of people. All of us love a "job well done." It is ok to receive a compliment. Those who are 10X understand the trap of building their self-esteem off of the approval of people. If we accept the approval of people then we will also have to accept their criticism and rejection. **John 12:42-43, 2 Corinthians 10:12-18 (NLT)** Those who are 10X have learned to live for the approval of God and not of people.

- 5) Daniel refused to take the credit for things that he did not do. Any success we have comes from God. **Daniel 2:27-28, Psalm 75:6-7**

Those who are 10X realize that God's glory belongs to Him alone. This is the desire of their life. That all that they do and say would be for the Glory of God.

Isaiah 42:8, Colossians 3:17, 1 Corinthians 10:31