



FRANKLIN ROAD

baptist church

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PASTOR ANDY

IN OUR DISCUSSION ON SUNDAY, WE TALKED ABOUT THE MATURE CHRISTIAN LIMITING THEIR LICENSE TO EAT MEAT, IF IT WAS GOING TO HINDER THE CONSCIENCE OF ANOTHER BROTHER OR SISTER IN CHRIST. MARK 7 AND I CORINTHIANS 8 BOTH MENTION THAT WHAT WE EAT IS NOT AS IMPORTANT AS HOW WE EAT.

NOW, WE MUST NOT BE QUICK TO TITLE ANYONE "WEAKER" WHO DOES NOT WANT TO PARTAKE IN WHAT KNOWLEDGE TELLS US. WOULD ANYONE WANT TO CALL DANIEL, HANANIAH, MISHAEL, AND AZARIAH WEAKER BELIEVERS BECAUSE THEY DID NOT FEEL RIGHT, AND DETERMINED NOT TO DEFILE THEMSELVES WITH WHAT THEY BELIEVED TO BE WRONG – BY PARTAKING THE KING'S CHOICE MEAT AND WINE (DAN 1:8)?

DURING AN ELECTION YEAR, LIKE THIS ONE, WE OFTEN HEAR OF MEN OR WOMEN WHO ARE SKILLED IN THE ART OF COMPROMISE. SOMEONE ONCE SAID, "A COMPROMISE IS THE ART OF DIVIDING A CAKE IN SUCH A WAY THAT EVERYBODY BELIEVES HE GOT THE BIGGEST PIECE".

IT TAKES COURAGE TO LIVE AN UNCOMPROMISING LIFE – A LIFE YOU BELIEVE TO BE WRONG BEFORE THE REDEEMING GOD. THE HARDEST PART IS TAKING THE CRITICISM FROM EVERYONE ELSE WHO DO NOT SHARE IN THE SAME CONVICTIONS.

THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN DANIEL (AND HIS FRIENDS) AND WHAT WAS HAPPENING IN I CORINTHIANS 8 WAS NOT A LACK OF KNOWLEDGE BUT A HEIGHTENED AWARE OF CIRCUMSTANCES. NEBUCHADNEZZAR HAS PROVEN HE IS RUTHLESS AND CRUEL, BUT NOW HE IS TRYING TO SHOW KINDNESS THROUGH IN-DOCTRINATION. WHILE OTHERS WERE FALLING INTO LINE WITH WHAT THE KING WANTED, THESE MEN (BOYS REALLY) WOULD NOT DO IT. THEIR CHOICES WERE BEING MADE FOR THEM, AND FOR MOST, THEY COULD NOT SEE THAT THEY WOULD EVENTUALLY BE MORE BABYLONIAN THAN JEWISH. AS ONE PASTOR SAID, "WE CAN NOT KEEP SENDING OUR KIDS TO CAESAR AND THEN BE SURPRISED WHEN THEY COME HOME ROMANS".

THE AMOUNT OF COURAGE NEEDED TO STAND UP TO A KING'S WISHES IS NOTHING SHORT OF COMMENDABLE. WHAT MAKES DANIEL AND THE OTHERS REQUEST ADMIRABLE, WAS JUST THAT – IT WAS A REQUEST. DANIEL NOT ONLY HAD CONFIDENCE TO STAND UP TO THE KING BUT THE COURTESY. HE DID NOT DEFY AUTHORITY. HE MADE A REQUEST AND IN VERSE 9 IT SAYS THAT GOD GRANTED DANIEL FAVOR IN THE SIGHT OF THE COMMANDER. SOME OF US COULD TAKE A LESSON IN HOW FAR A CONFIDENT VOICE, A PEACEABLE DISPLAY OF WORDS, AND A HOLY DESIRE FOR LIVING CAN GET US IN THE EYES OF GOD.

WE CAN NOT BLINDLY GO THROUGH THIS WORLD THINKING THAT EVERYTHING WE DO DOES NOT HAVE AN AGENDA BY THE EVIL ONE TO TURN OUR EYES AWAY FROM THE SOVEREIGN ONE. SATAN IS VERY GOOD AT TWISTING GOD'S WORD SO THAT IT NO LONGER HAS ANY REPRESENTATION OF WHO HE IS AND WHAT HIS ATTRIBUTES DEMAND.

WE CAN NOT KEEP EATING MEAT AND DRINKING WINE WHEN THERE IS NO BENEFIT TO HOLINESS OR IF THERE IS A POSSIBILITY OF BEING MASTERED BY IT (I COR 6: 12).

THE MATURE CHRISTIAN IS NOT THE ONE WHO KNOWS HE CAN USE HIS LIBERTY.
THE MATURE CHRISTIAN IS THE ONE WHO KNOWS HOW TO USE HIS LIBERTY.