



Notes | April 21, 2024

How do you stay rooted in a culture that is drifting?

In our current culture, people choose to place their identity in many different things. Gender, race, nationality, relationships, interests, career, etc. Living in such a complex world can create confusion about our identity in Christ. Through the story of Daniel and his friends, we find that when we're rooted in God, we can remain steadfast in who we are and recognized how to relax or refuse what the world is offering us.

Key Scripture | 1 Peter 2:11-12

Dear friends, I urge you, as foreigners and EXILES, to abstain from sinful desires, which wage war against your soul. Live such good lives among the pagans that, though they accuse you of doing wrong, they may see your good deeds and GLORIFY GOD on the day he visits us.

Related Scriptures

Daniel 1:3-4, 8, 12-16, Deuteronomy 11:18-20, Romans 12:1-2,

Icebreakers:

Q: What is one hobby, activity or interest that has become part of your personality, or has helped form you?



Key Thoughts and Reflections:

I. We are not living in “Jerusalem”, we are exiles living in “Babylon”. The goal of the enemy is to form us according to Babylon.

Q: Name two areas (scripture, people, ethnicity, media, interests, etc.), that you feel make up your identity?

Q: What about your identity do you feel like the world is trying to confuse/attack?

Q: Where do you feel like you have found your identity in the wrong places? Why do you think that is?

II. Being “rooted” is the secret to living wisely in the complexity of Babylon trying to form you.

Q: Choosing to “Relax” in Babylon holds the mindset: “I can be around it, disagree with it, and not be formed by it.” What is something you need to have a more “relaxed” mindset about?

Q: Choosing to “Refuse” in Babylon holds the mindset: “I can be around it, but if I engage in it, it will form me.” What is something in your life that you need to “refuse” being around personally?

Q: Name one you think people have different opinions on whether to “relax” or “refuse”? How do you love those well who “refuse” something that you “relax” on?

III. To the degree in which you are rooted in Jesus, you have what it takes to navigate the complexity of Babylonian ideas. Rooted means to be formed (disciplined) in the truth, culture, and priorities of Jesus.

Q: Who/what formed your beliefs the most about what it means to be a Christian?

Q: Talk about a time you had a belief about what it meant to live as a Christian, and God changed your perspective?

Q: How could you personally be more intentional in becoming “rooted” in Christ?

Get Practical

We can be rooted in Christ in our homes and hearts, despite living in a society that is of the world by talking about the truth, priorities, and culture of Jesus in everyday moments.

Pray through these questions this week:

-Where have you allowed Babylon to creep in and form you or your family?

-Where are you too focused on Babylon “out there” and not focused enough on Babylon “in here?”