



Repentance Tabernacle Church

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Resisting Ungodly Temptations!

Scripture: Daniel 1:8-16

Daniel was a Jewish captive in Babylon. He was of royal or princely descent (Daniel 1:3). For his rank and comeliness, he was trained for palace service. In the polluted atmosphere of an oriental court, he lived a life of singular piety and usefulness. He was drafted as a counselor to King Nebuchadnezzar. **Daniel's life is a picture of the triumph of faith.** May God grant us this type of faith to live courageously each day.

Biblically, to defile is to make something common, unclean, or impure, violating holiness and God's standards. In the Old Testament, this included physical acts like eating forbidden foods or being in contact with dead bodies, but also moral and spiritual acts like idolatry. In the New Testament, Jesus emphasized that true defilement comes from within—from sinful thoughts and actions in the heart, such as murder, theft, and lust, which corrupt a person and separate them from God.

Daniel chose not to eat this food because the meat was probably pork or some other forbidden food (Leviticus 11), it was not prepared according to Jewish law, and it had probably been sacrificed to idols. Although Daniel was in a culture that did not follow God's laws, he still obeyed them himself. It is easier to resist temptation if you have thought through your convictions well before the temptation arises. Daniel and his friends made their decision to be faithful to the laws of God before they were faced with the king's delicacies, so they did not hesitate to stick with their convictions. **Sometimes we get into trouble because we have not previously decided where to draw the line.** Before such situations arise, decide on your commitments. Then when the temptation comes, you will be ready.

In Matthew 15:11-20, Jesus was referring to the Jewish regulations concerning food and drink. These verses could be translated: "You aren't made unholy by eating non-kosher food! **It is what you say and think that makes you unclean!**" Jesus told His disciples to let the Pharisees alone because they were blind to God's truth. Not all religious leaders clearly see God's truth. However, Peter was faced with the issue of non-kosher food (Acts 10:9-15). Then he would learn that nothing should be a barrier to proclaiming the Gospel to the Gentiles (non-Jews). We work hard to keep our outward appearance attractive, but what is in our hearts is even more important. **The way we are deep down (where others can't see) matters much to God.** What are you like inside? When we become a child of God, He makes us different on the inside. God wants us to have healthy thoughts and motives, not just healthy bodies.

Christians are free to be all they can be for God, but they are not free from God. What did Paul mean when he said "*that your bodies are the members of Christ*" (1 Corinthians 6:15)? Many people say they have the right to do whatever they want with their own bodies. Although they think this is freedom, they are really enslaved by their own desires. When we become a child of God, the Holy Ghost comes to live in us. Therefore, we no longer own our bodies. Christ's death freed us from sin, but also obligates us to his service. Because your body belongs to God, you must not violate His standards for living.

James 3:6, describes the destructive potential of the tongue, and compares the damage the tongue can do to a raging fire—defileth the entire body and setting a path of wickedness and has its source in hell itself. The uncontrolled tongue can do terrible damage. That sinful speech, rooted in pride and lack of self-control, can lead to severe spiritual damage and judgment, impacting one's entire existence and relationship with God. Satan uses the tongue to divide people and put them against one another. Idle words are damaging because they spread destruction quickly, and no one can stop the results once they are spoken. We dare not be careless with our words, thinking we can apologize later, for even if we do, the scars remain. A few words spoken in anger can destroy a relationship that took years to build. Before you speak, remember the words are like fire—you can neither control nor reverse the damage they can do. Paul's advice in Philippians 4:8 and think about what is true, honest, just, pure, lovely, and of good report.

Revelation 21:27 let us know that only those whose names are written in the Lamb's Book of life will enter the New Jerusalem (the Heavenly city) because nothing impure, abominable, or false can exist in God's holy presence. Therefore, people of God we should spend less time wondering when future events will happen and more time learning how we should live now.

People of God, ask God to help you to resist ungodly temptations!