

# Conviction vs. Preference

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## I. Introduction.

A. We have more preferences than convictions too often.

B. A preference is...

1. Based on emotion, but a conviction is based on principle.
2. Oriented towards here and now, but a conviction is oriented toward the future.
3. Influenced by what others think, but a conviction is influenced by what God thinks.
4. Abandoned for the sake of immediate pleasure, but a conviction is seen as something with which one can obtain a reward.
5. Convenience oriented, but a conviction is sacrifice oriented.

C. Text: Daniel 1:8, 3:16.

## II. Daniel refused to eat food sacrificed to idols—he made up his mind.

A. God is not looking for men He can make faithful—He is looking for men whom He can elevate.

B. God is looking for men and women of conviction, and He is looking to raise them to a position of influence.

## III. Shadrack, Meshack and Abednego refused to worship the idols despite the king's decree.

A. There is far more to lose by compromise eternally than there is gain.

B. The greatest tragedy of being a man of compromise is that the ultimate end in this life is destruction.

C. We need our children to see an illustration of one who never compromises.

D. Until we allow God to convict us, we miss ever being used by God.

## IV. Three areas to develop in which to convictions.

A. Moral purity.

1. Physically.
2. Mentally.

B. Ethically.

C. Spiritually.

**Application questions:**

1. What are the differences between preferences and convictions?

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2. What are some areas that the church struggles to have convictions in other than those mentioned?

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3. How will you challenge yourself to develop deeper convictions this week? Be specific.

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