

# BIBLE BAPTIST CHURCH OF ERIE

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## SERMON SERIES GLAD THAT YOU ASKED

### “Is the Church of the Living God To Obey Every Government Order? Part II

#### ACTS 5:26-29; DANIEL 3

Last Sunday I did **Part I** from **Acts chapters 3-5**. And it was here in **Acts 5** that we learned a particularly important rule for “*the Church of the Living God, the pillar and ground of truth.*” (**1 Tim. 3:15**) **Acts 5:29** is the standard by which we are to use in our obedience to God and civil authority.

Now Peter says that we “**ought or must**” obey God which speaks of a **moral necessity**. This is very similar to what Peter and John said in **Acts 4:20**: “**For we cannot but speak of what we have seen and heard.**” **We are to Obey God no matter how difficult it is.** **1 Samuel 15:22** says, “*To obey is better than sacrifice.*”

Remember now what we said last Sunday - while civil government is invested with divine authority to rule the state, neither **Romans 13** or **1 Peter 2** (nor any other verses) **grants civic rulers’ jurisdiction over the church**. God has established three institutions within human society: the **family**, the **state**, and the **church**. Each institution has a sphere of authority with jurisdictional limits that must be respected. *God has not granted civic rulers authority over the doctrine, practice, or polity of the church.* The biblical framework limits the authority of each institution to its specific jurisdiction. **Our first obligation is to obey God rather than Caesar when there is a conflict of order.**

Now that we have firmly established the New Testament truth about our obedience, let look at an Old Testament example that gives to us the direction that God wants us to follow. We read in **1 Cor. 10:11-12** that **God has given to us some O.T. examples to follow**. Now I want you to turn with me to **Daniel Chapter 3** and there we will see how three young Jewish men responded when the government commanded that everyone bow to worship the great image. Now there are three truths that I want you to see and follow here in Daniel 3.

#### I. THEY WOULDN’T BOW (3:1-12): THAT’S DEVOTION

1. The CIRCUMSTANCES – 3:1-3
2. The COMMAND – 3:4-5
3. The COST – 3:6

4. The CHOICE – 3:7
5. The CONTROL – 3:8-12

Secondly . . .

#### II. THEY WOULDN’T BEND! : THAT’S DETERMINATION

(vs.13-18)

1. The CHALLENGE - 3:13-15
2. The CONFIDENCE – 3:16-18
3. The COMPROMISE – We are often called upon to **comprise our faith for the sake of tolerance. But what does the Scripture say: \*\*Deut. 6:4-5; \*\*Col. 3:17; \*\*Proverbs 3:5-6**

Lastly. . . .

#### III. THEY WOULDN’T BURN! : THAT’S DELIVERANCE

(vs.19-30)

1. They CONFORMED – 3:19-23 – They did “**fall down**” (3:23) . . . BUT . . . not before the golden image.
2. Their COMPANIONSHIP - 3:24-25 – Jesus, God the Son, was with them in the fiery furnace. **God didn’t protect them FROM the fire . . . He protected them IN the fire.** God is not always going to protect you from trials, troubles and tribulations. **1 Peter 4:12-13**
3. They Are COMFORTABLE - 3:26-28 – They didn’t even smell like smoke! They probably didn’t want to leave!
4. The CREDIT – 3:28-30 – NOTICE who Nebuchadnezzar gives CREDIT to . . . the God of the 3 Hebrew children. The King promoted them. God honored their faithfulness to Him. Give God some CREDIT! He’s able! **Ephes. 3:20-21.**

#### THREE LIFE LESSONS LEARNED IN THE FURNACE

##### 1) PERSECUTION/INTIMIDATION: Facing the fire deepens your commitment

When you dare to be different, when you dare to stand up for God and refuse to bow down to the idols of this world you will suffer persecution.

##### 2) PERSEVERANCE: Don’t give in to CULTURE pressure

Remember our story? They wouldn’t bow. That’s devotion. And then when they are given a second chance, they wouldn’t bend. That’s determination. In other words, they had already determined beforehand they were going to be faithful to God.

##### 3) PRESENCE: Jesus will always be with you in the fire

Here’s a little math lesson. How many men were thrown in the fire? Three. How many men walked around in the fire? Four. How many men walked out of the fire? Three. So where is the fourth man? He’s still in the fire, and you’ll find Him when you have to walk through the fire. Look at God’s promise in Isaiah, (**Isaiah 43: 2-3**).