

The Courage of Conviction

(Daniel 6:10-13, 16)

Introduction

Do you have convictions that are immovable and unchangeable. In other words, principles that no one can make you compromise no matter the consequence or result? Are you a person that will not compromise your Godly convictions?

Last Tuesday, the U. S. Supreme Court heard oral argument in the Hobby Lobby/Conestoga Woodworks vs DHS. The primary focus has been on Hobby Lobby founder David Green. Hobby Lobby was founded in 1972 by Green and organized on biblical principles. The recent Obamacare Law would require Hobby Lobby to provide certain medicines (the morning after pill) that Green objects to as violating his Christian convictions.

Green has implied that he will close the business if forced to cooperate with the Obamacare mandate. David Green lives his life based on Biblical convictions!!

Today, we are going to focus on the concept of personal convictions. That is, the beliefs you hold that you are not willing to compromise no matter the consequence.

Contextualize Daniel 6.

(Daniel was a Hebrew deported to Babylon during the "Babylonian Captivity." One purpose of this deportation was to indoctrinate key captives in the way of the Babylonians in order to build loyalty and prevent future rebellion.

While away from his homeland, Daniel lived through two empires and four rulers, rising to places of importance (Daniel 2:48; 5:29; 6:28). All of this was done without Daniel compromising his fundamental and core spiritual beliefs in Jehovah God. He had the courage of his convictions.

I. Defining *Biblical Conviction*

A strong conviction is a belief that you are so thoroughly convinced is true, that you are willing to stand for it no matter the consequence. You will not compromise this belief.

Convictions can be held by anyone. What we are speaking of today are ***Godly or Biblical convictions.***

A Biblical conviction is a belief, based on the Word of God, that you are so thoroughly convinced is true, that you are willing to stand for it no matter the consequence.

Personal convictions are basic core values that are uncompromised (God, family, moral conduct, or even practical living.)

- A) Convictions are more than opinions**
- B) Convictions are more than passions**
- C) Convictions are more than preferences**

II. Demonstrating Biblical Convictions

- A) The Decree (Daniel 6:6-9)**
- B) The Determination (Daniel 6:10)**
(Biblical convictions will be challenged and require courage to stand.)
 - 1) Peer pressure
 - 2) Family pressure
 - 3) Societal pressure
- C) The Consequence (Daniel 6:11-17)**
(Biblical convictions will have consequence)
 - 1) Loss (financial, personal, etc.)
 - 2) Opposition
 - 3) Death
- D) The Result (Daniel 6:18-24, 28)**
(God honors Biblical conviction)

III. Developing *Biblical Convictions*

- A) Forged in the word**
- B) Solidified by difficulty**
- C) Strengthen by God**

(When you compromise a part of your convictions, you give away a part of yourself. You compromise your character.)

Conclusion