

Icon or Imitation
Pentecostals of Dadeville – Rev Andrew Salinas
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Read Aloud – Daniel 1:8-17 (printed at the end)

- **What is an Icon?**

icon –noun - a sign or representation that stands for its object by virtue of a resemblance or analogy to it.

Related Words: "image," "likeness,"

- **What is an Imitation?**

im·i·ta·tion - noun

1.a counterfeit; copy.

2.the copying of patterns of activity and thought of other groups or individuals.

Related Words for : imitation

fake, false, faux, simulated, counterfeit

- **What Does God's Word Say About being and Icon?**

"But Daniel purposed in his heart that he would not defile himself with the portion of the king's meat, nor with the wine which he drank: therefore he requested of the prince of the eunuchs that he might not defile himself." (Daniel 1:8)

There inevitably come those times in the life of a Christian when he, for conscience sake in the light of the Word of God, must take a stand against some worldly practice. Daniel has given us a striking example of how to do this, not only courageously, but graciously, and effectively.

As one of "the princes" of Israel, "of the king's seed" (Daniel 1:3), he realized that he had the responsibility of maintaining a godly standard as a testimony for the true God, when he was asked "to stand in the king's palace" (Daniel 1:4) after he and his friends had been carried into captivity. Daniel knew that the king's wine would surely be harmful, were he to partake of it. Also, the king's meat would certainly include pork and would be cooked with blood, which would be unlawful for him, as a good Jew, to eat (Leviticus 11:7-8, 17:10-14). He determined in his heart to take a stand against it.

Note, however, his stand was not belligerent or self-righteous, but courteous and reasonable. "He requested. . . . Prove thy servants, I beseech thee" (Daniel 1:8-12). The Babylonians thought they were doing him and his friends a great favor, and Daniel appreciated this. He suggested a scientific test: Let them try a vegetarian diet and water for just ten days to see if this wouldn't produce better results than the gourmet fare of the palace.

God honored Daniel's graciousness, as well as his courageous faithfulness, and so will He do for us as well. Both are essential ingredients of a fruitful Christian testimony in a non-Christian world. We must "be ready always to give an answer," but this should be done, not in arrogance, but "with meekness" (1 Peter 3:15). HMM

List some Icons in the Bible:

Abraham (son Isaac), Sarah (Gave birth in the 90's), Moses (leader who couldn't talk well), Daniel (Lion's den), 3 Hebrews Shadrac, meshak, abednigo (wouldn't bow), Noah (one instruction, 120 years to build), Job (spiritual leader, lost it all never questioned God), ADAM, BATH SHEBA, DAVID, DELILAH, DEBORAH, ESTHER, JACOB, JEZEBEL, JOSEPH, JUDITH, RACHEL, RUTH, SAMSON, SOLOMON, TAMAR, MARY OF NAZARETH, MARY MAGDALENE, PETER, HEROD JOHN THE BAPTIST, JOSEPH, MARTHA & MARY, ELIZABETH, Steven, PAUL, & JUDAS

- **What Does God's Word Say About being an imitation?**

Numbers 20:7 And the LORD spake unto Moses, saying,

8 Take the rod, and gather thou the assembly together, thou, and Aaron thy brother, and speak ye unto the rock before their eyes; and it shall give forth his water, and thou shalt bring forth to them water out of the rock: so thou shalt give the congregation and their beasts drink.

9 And Moses took the rod from before the LORD, as he commanded him.

10 And Moses and Aaron gathered the congregation together before the rock, and he said unto them, Hear now, ye rebels; must we fetch you water out of this rock?

11 And Moses lifted up his hand, and with his rod he smote the rock twice: and the water came out abundantly, and the congregation drank, and their beasts also.

12 And the LORD spake unto Moses and Aaron, Because ye believed me not, to sanctify me in the eyes of the children of Israel, therefore ye shall not bring this congregation into the land which I have given them.

Daniel 1:8 But Daniel purposed in his heart that he would not defile himself with the portion of the king's meat, nor with the wine which he drank: therefore he requested of the prince of the eunuchs that he might not defile himself.

9 Now God had brought Daniel into favour and tender love with the prince of the eunuchs.

10 And the prince of the eunuchs said unto Daniel, I fear my lord the king, who hath appointed your meat and your drink: for why should he see your faces worse liking than the children which are of your sort? then shall ye make me endanger my head to the king.

11 Then said Daniel to Melzar, whom the prince of the eunuchs had set over Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah,

12 Prove thy servants, I beseech thee, ten days; and let them give us pulse to eat, and water to drink.

13 Then let our countenances be looked upon before thee, and the countenance of the children that eat of the portion of the king's meat: and as thou seest, deal with thy servants.

14 So he consented to them in this matter, and proved them ten days.

15 And at the end of ten days their countenances appeared fairer and fatter in flesh than all the children which did eat the portion of the king's meat.

16 Thus Melzar took away the portion of their meat, and the wine that they should drink; and gave them pulse.

17 ¶As for these four children, God gave them knowledge and skill in all learning and wisdom: and Daniel had understanding in all visions and dreams.

Instructions for becoming an Icon:

Step 1: Gain the confidence to stand out from the crowd and take risks. Don't be afraid to make bold choices, even if you must start out slowly.

Step 2: But don't overdo it. Keep it simple and classy (unless you know its God).

Step 3: Think about the image you want to portray. First impressions count, so make sure you are projecting the right image (the image of Christ and not our Image).

Step 4: Just because something is trendy doesn't mean that it will work for you. Ask others for feedback. Also, stick to ministry that complements your talents and abilities.

Step 5: Develop a signature style and incorporate a special trademark into your everyday look. Let your personality and God's love shine and reveal your passions through your everyday life, not just once in a while.

Prayer