Daniel Chapter 3

## The seduction of idolatry

Many Christian writers talk about materialism relativism and individualism has been the key idolatries of the day. In what way do we CVs in the church today?

Why have certain idols become so accepted in the church today?

The king used music to get the people to worship the idol. In what ways can/is music used today to build allegiances to things other than God?

If materialism, relativism, and I individualism were absent from the church today, what would the church look like?

What would be the hallmarks of a church fully devoted to God? How does our church need to grow in its discipleship to fit this description? In what areas are younger Christians in our community, most exposed to the dangers of compromising their faith?

## Resisting the pressure to conform

What are the things that give us a sense of self-worth and identity? How would you explain to somebody?

How being sure of your identity in Christ helps you to have the right perspective on life and all that it brings to us?

What examples of true faith that you have witnessed? How would you describe the characteristics of true faith? How do you think it would feel to make a choice of faith that you knew could very easily result in your own death?

Given many of the Jews who down and worshipped the idol, what do you think made the difference between them and the three who didn’t? If you had been one of the many Jews who had worshipped the idol, how do you think the experience of these three men would have affected you?

One Christian writer has said “we will be protected from idolatry by humbling ourselves before God, and asking for his wisdom about how we should live. “In what way does gold reveal his wisdom to us how readily to embrace his wisdom for living?

## Living in expectation

The three friends knew and trusted that God would turn up. Perhaps they were expecting God to rescue them before they went into the furnace, but they discovered that God was with them in it. God was at the centre of their hearts.

God clearly cares about our hearts:

*When we are broken-hearted read Psalm 34:18, or Psalm 147:3*

*When you are fainthearted, read, Deuteronomy 20:3-4*

*When you need to take heart read Psalm 31:24, Jon, 16:33*

*When you need encouragement to not lose heart, read Hebrews 12:3-6*

*When you want to be pure in heart, read Matthew 5:8*

*When you want to refresh another’s heart, read Philemon 1:20*

Where is your heart? Is there anything hindering you in trusting God with all your heart? If so, what would change this?