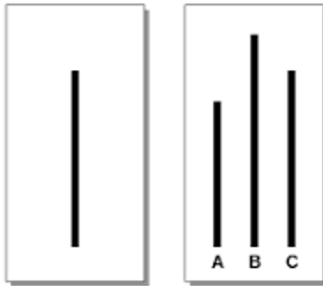




## I. THE DANGERS OF NEGATIVE PEER PRESSURE

### The Asch Conformity Experiment



The tendency to conformity in our society is so strong that reasonably intelligent and well-meaning young people are willing to call white black. This is a matter of concern. It raises questions about our ways of education and about the values that guide our conduct.

Solomon Asch, PhD

The surest way to corrupt a youth is to instruct him to hold in higher esteem those who think alike than those who think differently.

Friedrich Nietzsche

Walk with the wise and become wise; associate with fools and get in trouble.

Proverbs 13:20 (NLT)

Do not conform yourselves to the standards of this world, but let God transform you inwardly by a complete change of your mind. Then you will be able to know the will of God—what is good and is pleasing to him and is perfect.

Romans 12:2 (TEV)

Obviously, I'm not trying to win the approval of people, but of God. If pleasing people were my goal, I would not be Christ's servant.

Galatians 1:10 (NLT)

**The bottom line of standing strong in faith**

**I must fear God more than I fear the consequences of defying the peer pressure of the world.**



## II. AN OVERVIEW OF DANIEL CHAPTER 3

The account of Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego in the fiery furnace:

1. Their Trial (v.1-15)

2. Their Testimony (v.16-18)

3. Their Triumph (v.19-30)



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Do not be afraid, for I have ransomed you. I have called you by name; you are mine. When you go through deep waters, I will be with you. When you go through rivers of difficulty, you will not drown. When you walk through the fire of oppression, you will not be burned up; the flames will not consume you. For I am the LORD, your God, the Holy One of Israel, your Savior.

Isaiah 43:1-3 (NLT)

## III. WAYS TO STAND STRONG IN THE FACE OF FIERY TRIALS

1. Determine who I am and what I believe *before* I face the trial
2. Resolve to do what is right in the little things
3. Trust the Lord to give me success without compromising my integrity
4. Be confident that God will provide what I need to endure
5. Maintain an eternal perspective.