

Peer Pressure to Sin - Rationalization

The peer pressure the three Jews were under to bow to the statue was staggering! Matthew Henry proposes 7 reasons they could have compromised.

1) They were not required to turn from the worship of the True God - nor to make a profession to the image - only to bow to it.

2) They were not required to adopt idolatry, but only to commit one act which they might later have sought forgiveness from God.

3) The King, who commanded this act, had absolute power and they were forced to do his will. Any evil could be assigned to him alone.

4) Nebuchadnezzar was their benefactor - educating them and honoring them. It would seem right to strain their consciences to show gratitude.

5) They were in a strange land and so might easily have been excused for following the customs. "When in Rome do as the Romans do."

6) Their ancestors - even the kings, princes and priests - had often worshiped idols. Their own act would have been less grievous.

7) By complying with the king's decree, they would save their lives, keep their high positions, and thus be able to help the people of God.

May you and I follow their example and reject rationalization of sin and rather trust and obey the Lord, even when the stakes are high.