TEMPERANCE TABOO

Temperance is a word that is almost frowned upon in the 21st century and standards of diet in a religious context are viewed as legalistic. We live in a culture in Christianity where you can do anything you want with your body because after all “it’s my body.” In the Christian community, the idea that one is saved almost gives license to eat and drink any way that one wants to. Truth be told the idea of temperance is viewed with raised eyebrows even in our community of faith. Yet should it be? Does temperance have a place in the Christian experience?

Contained within chapter 1 of Daniel is the theme of temperance. From our cultural perspective, beginning a prophetic book with the theme of temperance is a peculiar one. Yet in Daniel 1, temperance lays the groundwork for intellectual and spiritual understanding that is critical to the rest of the book of Daniel.
Write out Daniel 1 from the translation of your choice. If you’re pressed for time, write out Daniel 1:8, 17. You may also rewrite the passage in your own words, outline, or mind map the chapter.
Go back to your scribed text and study the passage.

**Circle** repeated words/phrases/ideas

**Underline** words/phrases that are important and have meaning to you

Draw **Arrows** to connect words/phrases to other associated or related words/phrases

What special insights do your marks seem overall to point to?

Memorize your favorite verse in Daniel 1. Write it out multiple times to help memorization.

What area do you need to manifest temperance in?

What other areas correlate the physical with the spiritual as well?

Read more at www.inversebible.org/dan1-3
After looking at your scribed and annotated text, what special insights do your marks overall seem to point to?

What questions emerge after studying this passage? What parts are difficult?

What other principles and conclusions do you find?

Which area in your physical dimension needs some spiritual attention?

Read more at www.inversebible.org/dan1-4
What relationship do the following verses have with the primary passage?

Genesis 10:8–10; 11:1–9
Leviticus 11
1 Corinthians 6:19, 20; 10:31

What other verses/promises come to mind in connection with Daniel 1?

Review your memorized verse from Daniel 1.
How do you see Jesus differently or see Him again?

Prayer: How do you respond to seeing Jesus in this way?

Read more at www.inversebible.org/dan1-6
Review the memory verse. How does it apply to your life this week?

After this week’s study of the chapter, what are personal applications you are convicted of in your life?

What are practical applications you must make in your kitchen, cafeteria, and refrigerator?

How is temperance much more than dietary changes?

Read more inSight from the Spirit of Prophecy at www.inversebible.org/dan1-7
Share insights from this week’s memory verse and Bible study as well as any discoveries, observations, and questions with your Sabbath School class (or Bible study group). Consider these discussion questions with the rest of the group.

How does viewing temperance as a response to God’s love change my perspective of temperance?

Why doesn’t God simply bless everyone like He does Daniel? Why do you think cooperation is important to God?

What are instances in your life where you have experienced how your diet has impacted your mind? How does temperance affect one’s spiritual perception?

What are instances in your life where you have reaped the natural benefits of temperance?

How does our popular culture view temperance?

Have you ever experienced or seen where diet has been viewed as a way of earning salvation?