

“Be Not Conformed to This World”!

The Apostle Paul said, “I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, *which is* your reasonable service. And **do not be conformed to this world**, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what *is* that good and acceptable and perfect will of God” (Rom. 12:1-2 NKJV).

What does it mean to “not be conformed to this world”? The world is the society and the social structure around us. It means the thoughts and ideas that permeate our environment through the radio, television, movies, and the entertainment industry. These all contribute to the poisoned atmosphere in which we live. “The world” is the values and standards of the rest of the people around us. It is the status quo and the acceptable norm in the offices, shops, and on the streets of the community in which we live.

“The world” didn’t become the way it is by accident. Satan broadcasts his thoughts, ideas, and philosophies around this earth just as we humans broadcast over the radio and television waves. All humans living on earth are automatically tuned in to Satan’s station or wavelength. And this is also true in the areas of church and religion as well. Satan has filled “the world” including “religion” with his twisted, corrupted, hate-filled, bitter spirit and attitude.

Paul went on to explain this concept in more detail when he said, “...you once walked according to the course of this world, according to **the prince of the power of the air, the spirit who now works in the sons of disobedience, among whom also we all once conducted ourselves in the lusts of our flesh, fulfilling the desires of the flesh and of the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, just as the others**” (Eph. 2:2-3 NKJV).

The community in which we live is composed of many different ideas and philosophies regarding religion. Have you ever asked yourself, “How can they all be right”?

Be Transformed in Your Thoughts and Desires

If we are not to be conformed to everything around us, what then are we to emulate? Paul went on to say, “...**be transformed by the renewing of your mind...**” (Rom. 12:2 NKJV). This being transformed in our hearts and minds means that we must change our thoughts and ideas. And this is done by proving what is the good, acceptable, and perfect will of God.

We must do more than give God lip service. Jesus said in Luke 6:46 (NKJV), “But why do you call Me ‘Lord, Lord,’ and not do the things which I say?”

Matthew wrote the words of Jesus this way, “Not every one that saith unto Me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of My Father which is in heaven” (Matt. 7:21).

So are you willing to begin the journey of changing your whole way of thinking? Do you want to now do the will of your heavenly Father instead of your own self-centered desires?

Many talk religion and sound very spiritual, but are they willing to **DO WHAT GOD ASKS THEM TO DO? ARE WE WILLING TO REPENT OF OUR SINS AND CHANGE BY DOING THE WILL OF THE FATHER?**

“According to Gallup surveys, confirmed by other polls taken over the past fifteen years, 33 percent of all Americans over age eighteen indicate they are evangelical or “born again” Christians. That translates into 59 million Christians, or one in every three adults, who experienced a turning point in their lives as they made a personal commitment to Jesus Christ.

“This information should grip us with terror. It means that the greatest revival in history has so far been impotent to change society. [This is why we are going to have the great tribulation. JMS] It’s revival without reformation. **It’s a revival which left the country floundering in spiritual ignorance.** It’s a change in belief without a corresponding change in behavior...

“How did the building blocks of the gospel become glued together with the cement of self-centeredness? The American gospel has evolved into a gospel of addition without subtraction. **It is the belief that we can add Christ to our lives, but not subtract sin.** It is a change in belief without a change in behavior. It is a spiritual experience without any cultural impact. **It is revival without reformation, without repentance....**

“A changed life is one that has added Christ and subtracted sin, that attracts a world weary of worn-out words. **Obedience is the proof.**” From *Walking with Christ in the Details of Life* by Patrick Morley.

Satan has convinced many in Christianity that we can “come just as you are” to accept Jesus. But God does not say any such thing! The Word of God tells all of us to “**REPENT AND BE BAPTIZED**” for the forgiveness of our sins. Peter said, “...Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost” (Acts 2:38). We have grave conditions in Christianity today. **Many think they can just add Jesus to their wicked lives and continue to live as they did before they were called!**

God is asking all of us to drastically change our lives! We are to make a 180 degree turn from our accustomed way of life. God is asking us to change our way of thinking, that is, to alter our old ways, methods, and habits.

Prove all Things

Nowhere is the need for change greater than in our old ideas and habits of religion. Don’t take everything you believe for granted. Where did you get the ideas and beliefs you have?

Did you ever take time to **PROVE** to yourself from the Word of God whether your beliefs are from Jesus?

Here is a thought just to get you started. Jesus said to Thomas, "...I am the way, **the truth**, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me" (John 14:6 NKJV). You see, Jesus is truth! Truth is a person—Jesus Christ! Now, if you want to really get to know the truth, you must get to know Jesus personally. There is only one way to begin to know the Father and that way is through Jesus.

Jesus further said in John 7:16-18 (NKJV), "...My doctrine is not Mine, but His who sent Me. **If anyone wills to do His [the Father's] will, he shall know concerning the doctrine, whether it is from God or whether I speak on My own authority.** He who speaks from himself seeks his own glory; but He who seeks the glory of the One who sent Him is true, and no unrighteousness is in Him." Jesus didn't come to do His own thing or just to promote Himself. He came to do the will of the Father.

Now the above verse is very important in your quest for TRUTH! If you desire to do the will of the Father, you will be able to discern truth from error! The person that truly wants to do the will of God will be shown by the Holy Spirit if a doctrine or teaching comes from God, Satan, or men!

In Romans 8:29, we learn that, "For whom He did foreknow, He also did predestinate *to be conformed to the image of His Son*, that He might be the firstborn among many brethren." It should be the greatest desire of all Christians to be conformed or molded into the exact image of Jesus Christ.

So we see then that, we are not to be conformed to this world but rather we should **be conformed, in our character, to the image of Jesus Christ!**

We should be as those from Berea, "...in that they received the word with all readiness of mind, and searched the scriptures daily, whether those things were so." (See Acts 17:11.)

Make it your lifelong passion to prove everything you believe. Don't believe something just because your pastor said it. Don't believe something just because it was written down in a catechism, article, booklet, or magazine. Be like the Bereans who searched the scriptures daily, whether those things were so.

The Apostle Paul told those of Thessalonica to, "**Prove all things; hold fast that which is good**" (1 Thess. 5:21).

Be transformed in your thinking by allowing the Holy Spirit to work in your heart and mind and prove to you what is the good, acceptable, and perfect will of God.

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