

Do Not Be Conformed - Be Transformed

Be Not Conformed to the World - Rather Be Transformed

Romans 12:1-2 ESV I appeal to you therefore, brothers, by the mercies of God, to present your **bodies** as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your **spiritual** worship. **Do not be conformed** to this world, but **be transformed by the renewal of your mind**, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect.

- There is pressure to be CONFORMED TO THE WORLD from Satan, culture, and our temptations
 - WHAT IS THE WORLD - a system under the rule of Satan that functions outside the realm of God's word and authority
- **God calls us instead to be TRANSFORMED**
 - Transformation Involves all of me - present the BODY, renew the MIND, SPIRITual worship
 - All pointing to enabling us to DISCERN what is the WILL OF GOD
 - To walk with Jesus is a continuing exercise to discern and to submit to the Will of God

Be Conformed to the Image of Christ

Romans 8:28-29 ESV And we know that for those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are **called** according to his purpose. For those whom he **foreknew** he also **predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son**, in order that he might be the firstborn among many brothers.

- FOREKNOWLEDGE - **To Foreknow is not to make it happen**, its simply the idea that God knows beforehand those who will respond to his call [*he knows the beginning from the end*]...
- To those who **will respond**, God has a predetermined path or plan --**to be conformed to the image of his Son**
- Christianity has a vitality, a purpose and a destination - **Conforming to the image of Jesus**

Examples:

- Eph 5:1-2 ESV Therefore **be imitators of God**, as beloved children. 2 And **walk in love**, as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us, a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God.
- 1Jn 2:4-6 ESV Whoever says "I know him" but does not **keep his commandments** is a liar, and the truth is not in him, 5 but whoever keeps his word, in him truly the love of God is perfected. By this we may know that we are in him: 6 whoever says he abides in him **ought to walk in the same way in which he walked**.

This renewing of the mind is a critical piece of transformation takes place largely through the Word of God and by the Spirit of God

2Co 3:14-18 ESV But their minds were hardened. For to this day, when they read the old covenant, that same veil remains unlifted, because only through Christ is it taken away. 15 Yes, to this day whenever Moses is read a veil lies over their hearts. 16 But **when one TURNS TO THE LORD**, the veil is removed. 17 Now the Lord is the Spirit, and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom. 18 And we all, with **unveiled face, BEHOLDING the glory of the Lord, are being TRANSFORMED into the same image** from one degree of glory to another. For **THIS COMES FROM THE LORD WHO IS THE SPIRIT**.

Summary

All of us are under pressure to conform...and ultimately we ALL conform to SOMETHING--The question is:

1. Will we conform to the world?
2. ...or.Will we be transformed and conform to the image of Christ?

If you set your hope to being like Him, you will cooperate in the transformation process

- 1Jn 3:1-3 ESV See what kind of love the Father has given to us, that we should be called children of God; and so we are. The reason why the world does not know us is that it did not know him. 2 Beloved, we are God's children now, and what we will be has not yet appeared; but **we know that when he appears we shall be like him**, because we shall see him as he is. 3 And **everyone who thus hopes in him purifies himself as he is pure.**

It begins with the renewing of our mind

1. Will you accept that God's predestined plan is that you are conformed to the image of Christ?
2. Do you accept that you must present yourself to Him, body, soul and spirit for transformation?
3. Are you willing to spend time in His word - to see Him, to discern his will?
4. Are you willing to let the Word of God become your source of truth and guide your decisions in life?