

NOT CONFORMED, BUT TRANSFORMED

Rom 12:1,2

INTRODUCTION:

- A. Paul is directing this study towards those who are Christians
- B. To the saints in Rome Rom 1:7
- C. Verse one talks about a living sacrifice and in verse two about not being conformed but transformed -- which calls for entire or complete consecration

DISCUSSION:

I. BE NOT CONFORMED TO THIS WORLD

- A. "World" an age or period of time, marked in the N.T. usage by spiritual or moral characteristics
- B. "Conform" to fashion or shape one thing like another
 - 1. This world is temporary and transitory 2Pet 3:10
 - 2. The world is in rebellion against God
 - 3. The Christian is a loyal soldier in rebel territory
 - 4. Soldier does not conform to occupied country 2Tim 2:4
- C. "Conform" does not necessarily refer to customs
 - 1. In different localities we sometimes must conform to customs of locality
 - 2. Paul became different to different people, yet was always subject to law of Christ 1Cor 9:20-23
- D. "Be not conformed" in thinking and standards of the world 1Jhn 2:15,16 (in religion and morals)
 - 1. Language and/or habits (TV reflects standards)
 - 2. Morals and/or dress, etc (TV reflects standards)

II. BE YE TRANSFORMED

- A. To undergo a complete change which under the power of God will find expression in character and conduct - it stresses an inward change that results in an outward change (metamorphosis)
- B. The only alternative to conformity to the world is conformity to the will of God
- C. To be conformed to the will of God, we must be transformed by the power of God (the gospel)
 - 1. Old man crucified Rom 6:6; Put off Col 3:9
 - 2. Put on the new man Eph 4:24
 - 3. New creature (transformed) in Christ 2Cor 5:17
 - 4. Get into Christ through baptism Gal 3:26,27
- D. Not merely reformed or remodeled, but rebuilt

III. BY RENEWING YOUR MINDS

- A. Our minds are made over Note Prov 23:7
 - 1. Animals depend on heredity and environment
 - 2. Mankind has something besides this - the ability to reason
 - 3. Jesus places a new motivating force (gospel) in our minds Rom 1:16
- B. This power is appropriated through faith, repentance, confession and baptism.
- C. The mind of a Christian is renewed continually by certain aids
 - 1. The Holy Spirit that dwells in us 1Cor 3:16
 - 2. Continued study of the word 2Tim 2:15
 - a. Like a mirror Jas 1:25
 - b. Like a lamp Psa 119:105
 - 3. Prayer connects Christian to God 1Thess 5:17
 - 4. Observing the Lord's supper strengthens 1Cor 11:26ff
 - 5. Winning souls to Christ Prov 11:30

IV. PROVE THE WILL OF GOD

- A. To prove = to show forth, to manifest or make known
 - 1. Why do not more people attend services of the church?
 - 2. They are attracted or repelled by the lives of Christians. Matt 5:13-16
- B. Will of God is good, acceptable, perfect and we must make it known by our transformed life.

CONCLUSION:

- A. Transforming power is available to all who will accept it with the conditions contained therein
- B. The gospel (transforming power) will make us new creatures but it must be obeyed before the transformation takes place